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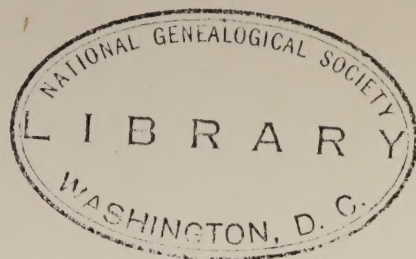
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

2nd
January 9 and 10, 1959

Baton Rouge, Louisiana LA

Sponsored by the
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
and
GENERAL EXTENSION DIVISION
of
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
in cooperation with
THE LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE INSTITUTE COMMITTEE

Invitations

MRS. THOMAS P. ROBERTS

Publicity

MR. CHARLES E. EAST

Banquet

MRS. CHARLES J. REDDY

General Chairman

MRS. ST. JOHN P. CHILTON

Program Chairman

MRS. MARY ELIZABETH SANDERS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE

January 9 and 10, 1959

Georgetown, Washington, D.C.



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PROCEEDINGS
of the

SECOND ANNUAL GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

JANUARY 9 and 10, 1959
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Department of History and General Extension Division
In Cooperation With
Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society

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P R O G R A M

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1959

8:00 Registration: Lobby of Pleasant Hall

9:00 Welcome: MR. FRED M. CULVER
President
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

Introduction: MRS. ST. JOHN P. CHILTON
General Chairman
DR. EDWIN A DAVIS
Head of the Department of
History
Louisiana State University

Greetings: DR. J. W. BROUILLETTE
Director of General Extension
Louisiana State University
DR. CHARLES E. SMITH
Dean of the University
Louisiana State University

9:30 The Records of Louisiana in the Archives
of the Indies
DR. PRESTON MOORE, Associate Professor of
History, Louisiana State University

10:15 Coffee

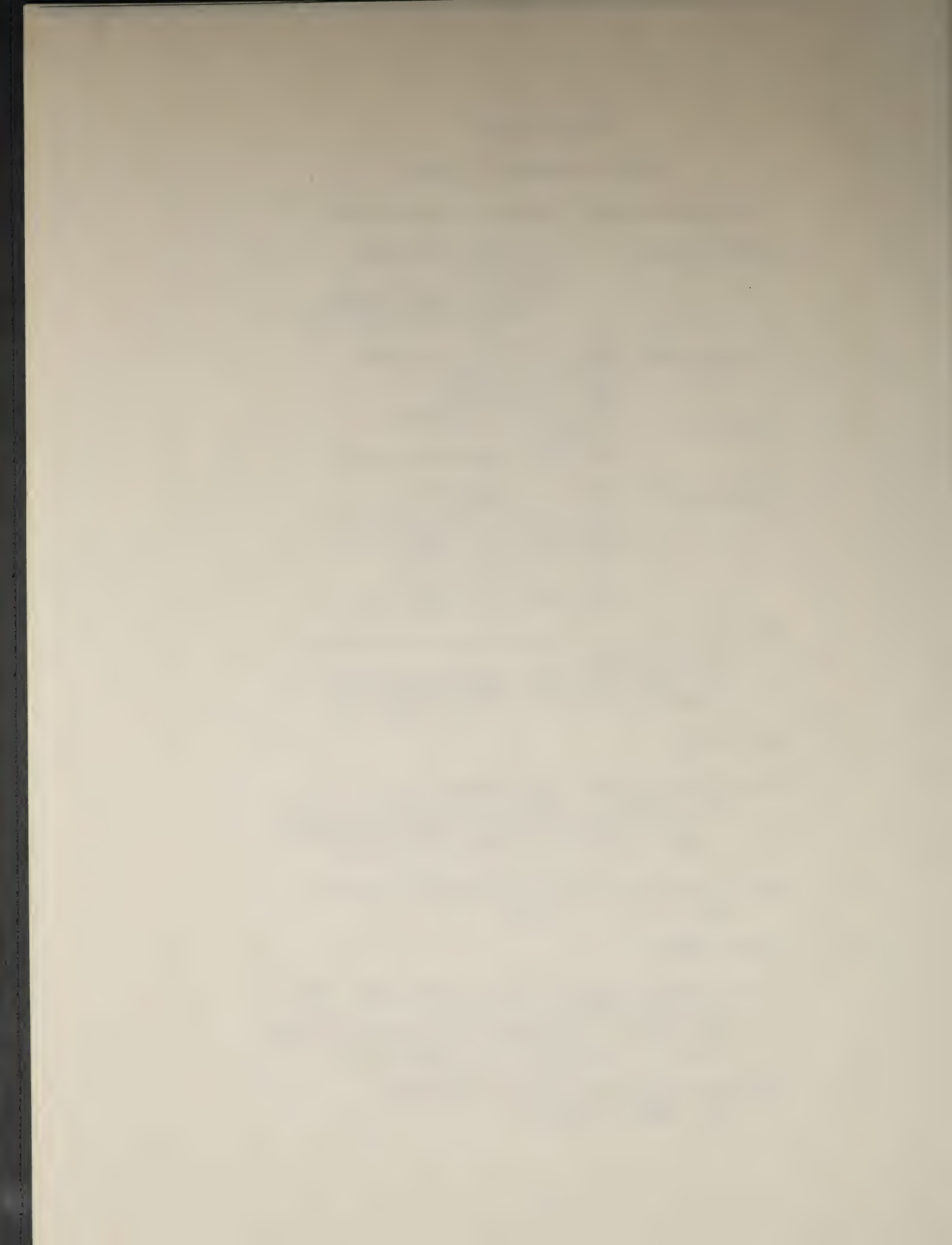
10:30 French Records of Louisiana
MR. VERGIL L. BEDSOLE, Archivist and Head
of the Department of Archives and Manu-
scripts, Louisiana State University

11:15 State Records in the National Archives
MRS. G. H. L. DUNIGAN

12:00 Luncheon

2:00 A General Introduction to Genealogy: How
Does One Start?
MR. JAMES S. COOKSTON, Instructor in Library
Science, Louisiana State University

2:30 Louisiana Historical Association
MR. KENNETH URQUHART



3:15 Coffee

3:30 Heraldry
MRS. IRBY C. NICHOLS

7:00 Social Hour: Faculty Club Lounge

7:30 Banquet: Faculty Club Dining Room
Louisiana's Archival Program
MR. JOHN C. L. ANDREASSEN, Director of
the State Archives and Records Commission

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1959

9:00 Panel: Doing Research in Louisiana
Records
Colonial Records
MRS. MARY ELIZABETH SANDERS
Federal, Parish & Municipal Records
MR. RUSS WILLIAMS
Other Resources
MRS. GILBERT FLETCHER

10:00 Coffee

10:15 Genealogical Clinic
MR. CHARLES E. EAST, Chairman
Newspapers as a Genealogical Source
MR. CHARLES E. EAST
Genealogy as an Individual and Group Project
MRS. POLK MORRIS, JR.
Methods of Identifying Individuals and the
Problems of Dates
MRS. PAUL M. CAMPBELL
Conducting the Genealogical Interview, Both
Verbal and Written
MRS. ST. JOHN P. CHILTON
Questions from the Floor

12:00 Luncheon

2:00 Annual Meeting

* * * * *

WELCOME

Fred M. Culver, President
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with pleasure that I may welcome you to this Second Annual Genealogical Institute, which is sponsored by the History Department and the General Extension Division of Louisiana State University.

I sincerely hope that this Institute will be as beneficial to all of you as the First Institute was to many of us. I am sure that there will be many statements made during these sessions that can and will assist us in our research.

We appreciate your presence here today, because that makes this Institute possible. We owe a debt of gratitude to the University, to the General Chairman, Mrs. St. John P. Chilton, and her committees, who have done such a grand job.

GREETINGS

J. W. Brouillette, Director
General Extension Division
Louisiana State University

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is again my pleasure to welcome you to Louisiana State University. If you will recall, last year when we met for your first institute, both Dean Smith and I hoped that you would come back to the campus. We are happy that you did decide to come back. Your return here to a second institute indicates that your first one was profitable and productive.

I shall do my best not to repeat the things I said when I welcomed you here last year except for this one sentence and it is -- you need not be welcomed here everytime you come for this is your University and there is a most cordial welcome for you here at any time you choose to come, whether for business or pleasure.

I am sure you could not choose a better place for your Institute than this one. First of all, I note that in this year's program you are stressing the records found in Louisiana and, of course, there is no better place for Louisiana records than Louisiana State University. I hope that I am right in making that statement. If I am not right, this should be the best place.

Last year, as you recall, I chided you somewhat about this business of digging up family skeletons. In a serious vein, this year I would like to quote Edward Everett who once said, "How is the spirit of a people to be formed and animated and cheered but out of the storehouse of its historic recollection". Genealogy, as you know, *is* a history of a person, family or group from an ancestor or from older forms. It can be an enumeration of ancestors and their decendents in the natural order of sucession. It also includes the study of family pedigrees and the methods of investigating these pedigrees, and, possibly during your conference here, you will learn of newer methods of investigating family documents.

Genealogy may be regarded as a science or an art. I am sure that the History Department here, Dr. Davis and his colleagues, would like for you to regard it as a science. Not being an historian myself, I would like for you to also consider genealogy as an art for, as Munford has said, "Works of art, unlike the dream, have a stable public form...they have always been one of man's

essential means for both self discovery and mature understanding.

However, I wish to caution you again that self discovery, particularly self discovery of a family, may not always bring happiness and glamour. A wise man has once said happy people have no history. Steinbeck, the novelist, in his book, East of Eden, in discussing the history of the Hamilton family, said, "The Hamiltons were connected and related to very great people and very small people so that one cousin might be a baronet and another cousin might be a beggar". Steinbeck also said, "And of course they," the Hamiltons, "were descended from the ancient kings of Ireland, as every good Irishman is". Maugham, in a short story, "The Fall of Edward Bernard", said, "There are few families that have not among their numbers one whom, if the neighbors permitted, they would willingly forget, and they are fortunate when the lapse of a generation or two has invested their vagaries with a romantic glamour". The tracing of family pedigrees may not always lead back to a famous senator or an Irish king.

In conclusion, however, I wish to say that I am all for the tracing of family histories. A study of our ancestors here in Louisiana, in addition to evoking pleasure and emotion, provides insight into the nature of the present population of our State. I shall not worry too much if among the fine characters we discover a few black sheep. A black sheep in a family is one means of keeping the other members white. Then, too, the generations that have passed add glamour to the hard lives of our pioneer families. Perhaps in three or four hundred years from now our weaknesses and sins will seem glamorous to the Louisianians who follow us.

Be that as it may, I want you to feel welcome here and to be happy while you are visiting with us. While I cannot give you the whole University, if you will let me know what your real needs are while you are on the campus, I shall turn heaven and half of the other place over to meet them.

GREETINGS

Charles E. Smith
Dean of the University
Louisiana State University

I feel inclined to say that this gathering probably represents the most thoroughly welcomed conference I have attended since the inception of the Pleasant Hall Adult Education Program. The presence of so many representatives of the University, however, I am sure reflects the genuine pleasure all of us feel in having the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society meeting on our campus.

Last year I enjoyed a brief visit with this group at the opening of the first conference. At that time I expressed the hope, indeed, the confident expectation that the initial meeting would mark the establishment of an annual series of conferences for which appropriate University departments would undertake joint sponsorship. This 2nd Annual meeting confirms my prediction that the first conference would be found so stimulating and worthwhile that you would want to embark upon a formal established annual series of meetings.

A fine program was presented last year. With all respect to those who planned or participated in the 1958 program, however, I feel that this year you have surpassed your previous standard. I note a strong emphasis upon archives resources in the addresses that are to be given. I know that for the discussion of this important topic you have enlisted the services of outstanding authors in Louisiana or, for that matter, in the entire lower South. Other portions of the planned program, likewise, have been entrusted to individuals of well-known competence in their respective fields. I think that all concerned with the planning of this conference are to be congratulated as I am confident that all of you will consider that your interest in the genealogical area of scholarship has been abundantly sustained.

It is a real pleasure to represent the University Administration in extending a cordial welcome to you, and I know I can bespeak the cooperation of all University agencies in making your stay with us a most enjoyable experience.

THE LOUISIANA RECORDS
IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE INDIES

Preston Moore
Associate Professor of History
Louisiana State University

It is a privilege to be invited to speak to the Genealogical Institute. As a Virginian I come from a state where a study of family records commands respect and attention. Louisiana and Virginia have much in common. I expect also that many of you have ancestors who migrated from Virginia during the first half of the 19th century.

I must confess that I come to you partly under false pretenses. I am not primarily an historian of Louisiana. My particular field of research is Spanish colonial history but of a distant area, the Viceroyalty of Peru. But, since I spent a year at work in the Archives in Spain, your program chairman has asked me to talk about the Louisiana records in that country. Let me add that I am hoping to enter Louisiana history by the back door, so to speak. I plan to write a biography of Don Antonio de Ulloa, who had a distinguished career in Spanish colonial service and in the navy before entering on his unfortunate tour of duty in New Orleans.

Before treating the more technical aspects of this subject, I should like to reminisce somewhat about my sojourn in Spain. I have pleasant memories of a year passed there in 1953-54. It is a commonplace theory that no better way exists to understand the traditions and customs of a people than to live among them for a period of time. After residing there for almost a year I left with a most favorable opinion of the land and its people. This was five years ago, before the influx of American service personnel and before the increase of tourism. But I doubt if things have changed very much. Spain is an old country with fixed customs, where inertia is a recognized force. Besides, the dictator, Caudillo Franco has little intention of permitting new ideas to enter and upset the regime or to modify the mores and habits of the populations.

In thinking back over my sojourn certain things impressed themselves upon me. They may be worth passing on to researchers wishing to make a trip to Spain to work in the archives. If any of you have visited this country, I feel sure that you will confirm my impressions. The trait that stands out in Spanish character is an unfailing courtesy, truly "Old World". It is a heritage for us of Spanish rule in Louisiana. It is seen in all classes of society, embracing even the lowliest bootblack, whose

number is legion. Friendliness and sympathy I was struck with also as characteristics of Spanish attitude and behavior. The cynical observer might comment that this attitude toward foreigners was artfully contrived to make up for the discomfiture and inconveniences encountered in living in Spain. At any rate courtesy and friendliness go a long way toward compensating for the lack of comfortable accommodations and for the food, siempre con aceite (always with olive oil) that must be put up with. Another compensation affects the pocketbook. Living is still cheap in spite of some inflation. Unless conditions have changed greatly Spain today is the most difficult country for Americans from the standpoint of living quarters and diet.

The researcher in Louisiana history, and by the same token in genealogy for the Spanish period, must spend the greater part of his time in Seville in the Archivo general de Indias (Archives of the Indies). There are some records in the Archivo histórico nacional (National Archives) in Madrid and in the Museo Naval (Naval Museum) also in Madrid. Most of the Louisiana records are, however, in the first-mentioned repository of colonial documents. Seville itself is a city of historic memories, of buildings and monuments going back into Moorish and Roman times. It is dominated by the cathedral with the high Moorish watchtower, the Diralda, incorporated into a Gothic structure. Since there is a Roman wall around the garden of the cathedral this ancient building symbolizes three great ages in architecture. Cervantes, the foremost Spanish author, laid the scene for the plot of one of his novels in this city. For historians this city is significant as the real capital of one of the world's greatest colonial empires. Personally, I prefer Seville to Madrid, which in Spanish history is youthful. In the sixteenth century it was merely a town, or villa, when Seville was a city and consequently has few old churches or other buildings of any age.

The Spanish colonial records, including those of Louisiana, are housed in an ancient structure, located in the heart of the city next to the cathedral, known familiarly to the Sevillanos as the Archivo. Fortunately, the records have suffered no damage from fire or injury from war. It was feared that such might happen during the Spanish Civil War during the 1930's when a single well-sized bomb could have wiped out the documentation for the colonial history of eighteen countries, as well as that for Louisiana from 1763-1803. But the fighting was concentrated around Madrid, and Seville escaped damage. The building, which I visited daily for a number of months, is a large rectangular two-story structure of brick and stone, in Greek and Roman style of architecture. An inner court covered with glass increases the size of the building so that it occupies a small square. It was constructed by the crown in the sixteenth century for the benefit

of the merchants engaged in the lucrative business with America. These traders had been accustomed to use the interior of the cathedral until the cabildo of the church objected to their mundane influence. When Cadiz replaced Seville as the important port for colonial trade in the 18th century the building was abandoned by the merchants. In the latter part of this century the suggestion was made that it be turned into a repository of colonial documents then scattered over Spain. With the king's approval this took place. Accordingly, the colonial documents from various centers, especially from Simancas, were gathered in Seville. The transfer is still in progress, as some collections are periodically being assembled and sent to the Archivo.

One enters the building by a narrow front door and then mounts a marble stairway to the second floor where the workroom for scholars is located. It is a long study with tall glass windows on one side, extending from the floor to the ceiling and looking into an inner courtyard. The floor is covered with a thick deep-red carpet. On either side of the aisle of the study is a row of double desks, about 18 to 20 in all, affording ample space for researchers to examine the manuscripts. The workroom contains no facilities for lighting and only a pretense of central heating. These are definite impediments to research in the winter months when it does get cold and gloomy in spite of the well-known advertisement of "sunny Spain". The hours of work are contrary to our usual schedule. The Archivo opens at 9:30 and closes at 1:30, permitting the long siesta which is part of the Latin way of life. The building is reopened at 3:30 and is accessible until 6:00. The occurrence of numerous fiestas and celebrations invariably means closing of the Archivo.

Despite these handicaps the work is rewarding. It is relatively easy to obtain permission to do research. Anyone connected with a University or historical society would have little trouble. A letter of recommendation from the American consul in Seville would suffice. Formality ordinarily requires a researcher who is beginning a lengthy stay to confer with the Director of the Archivo. In the past this position has been filled by men thoroughly acquainted with the sources and generally helpful in locating papers and documents. The attendants are usually prompt in bringing materials to your desk.

The researcher in the Archivo has at his disposal what is without doubt the finest collection of manuscripts in existence pertaining to a colonial empire. There are millions of documents and papers. The exact number is unknown, for no one has undertaken the enormous task of cataloguing or calendaring. The vast array of papers is testimony to the scrupulous attention by conscientious, hardworking bureaucrats to the administration for

three hundred years of the regions of Mexico, Central America, the Phillipines, and most of South America. Franklin Jameson, a famous American scholar, says in regard to the huge amount of paper work done by the Spanish civil servants: "Colonial empires have sometimes won greater success with less use of men; but, whatever the practical results may have been, historical investigators will not quarrel with the Spanish official's ceaseless accumulation of papers."

The papers, documents pertaining to Louisiana, are a very small part of this collection. They are in a section labeled Papeles procedentes de la Isla de Cuba (recently recatalogued as the Audiencia de Cuba), comprising 2,375 legajos, out of 35,000 legajos in the Archivo. It should be explained that the legajo is a bundle with anywhere from a few documents to as many as 2,000 pertaining to a particular district and arranged chronologically. For those of you wishing a more detailed exposition of the arrangement of the manuscripts there is a booklet by Dr. Bermudez Plata, entitled El Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla, sede del Americanismo. The Louisiana collection was so called because it was once a part of the Archivo de Cuba in Havana, which was transferred in several shipments from the island to Spain in 1888, 1889. The major portion of the Louisiana papers were moved directly from New Orleans to Havana between 1804 and 1806. Some were taken, however, to Pensacola after the retrocession of Louisiana and from that post to Havana in 1818-1819. These were placed with the earlier records and eventually all found their way to Seville. Of course many documents relating to property, wills, and marriages were turned over to the French authorities and finally to the United States.

The exact condition of the records has been a matter of some concern to historians of colonial Louisiana. When the Papeles de Cuba reached Spain, they were in a bad condition, due either to improper protection afforded in Havana or exposure to dampness in transit from the island to Europe. Careful treatment was given them by custodians of the archives in Seville so that damage was checked. It has been said by some scholars that the records are holding up well. I cannot entirely agree with this assertion. I had the opportunity of examining a number of legajos in this collection and the documents that I handled were in a deplorable state of preservation. In a number of instances the paper was turning brown and crumbling at the edges when touched. This may not be true of the entire collection. I hope not. But these manuscripts were in a worse condition than any that I encountered from other sections of the Archivo. Even though the Archivo has natural advantages in the storing of records, it should be incumbent upon us to do something so that no part of the knowledge of our colonial past will be lost.

In dealing with the legajos of the Papeles de Cuba one is handicapped by the absence of a calendar of the documents. An attempt to rectify this lack was made in 1911 when Dr. Roscoe Hill was sent by the Carnegie Institution of Washington to prepare a complete list, but after surveying the mass of papers (around 1,250,000 documents) he decided that this would be a long drawn-out process requiring many years of work and hence was impractical. Instead of making a calendar he spent over two years in painstakingly compiling a Descriptive Catalogue of the Papeles de Cuba, which was to be an introduction to the collection. This stands today as the best, most complete guide, an indispensable tool for the researcher. From this work one can obtain some idea of the kind and type of materials in the various legajos but in order to ascertain the exact nature of the document one must examine it. Hill's volume should be supplemented by Robertson's List of Documents in the Spanish Archives Relating to the History of the United States and William Shepherd's Guide to the Materials for the History of the United States in the Spanish Archives. Dr. Hill, in addition to the preparation of the guide, was able to make an itemized list of papers in 143 legajos, comprising some 58,000 items. This is available for scholars in the Library of Congress. Dr. Hill merits the high praise of historians for the accomplishment of a tedious but invaluable task. Spanish scholarship, while fruitful in the interpretation of the colonial past and in the publication of selected documents, has been woefully neglectful in the compilation of adequate guides and indexes. Even though a wish were expressed today in the circle of Spanish historians it is exceedingly doubtful if the Franco regime would appropriate the funds necessary for the cataloguing of the immense quantity of documents. In short, nothing may be expected in this connection from Spain. American scholars working in this section of the Archivo must continue to rely on the labors of Dr. Hill.

What is the value of these documents for the scholars in Louisiana history? Would a study of them in entirety change or modify our present interpretation of the Spanish period? While students have used some of the more important papers either through residence in Seville or through transcripts available in the Library of Congress, or in the Newberry Library in Chicago, a vast amount of material remains untouched. One is amazed at the completeness of the records for Louisiana and for the Floridas as well. A good deal of the documentary matter yet unexplored includes financial records, treasury accounts, customs duties, tax lists, land grants, royal decrees, correspondence of the intendants, and hojas de servicio, or individual service records for important officials. It is impossible to give a complete list of many types of records in existence. A careful examination of these would fill many lacunae that are only too evident

in our knowledge of the Spanish era. Undoubtedly genealogical records would be greatly enriched by patient research. If these records were thoroughly studied, it would call for a revaluation of our history from 1763-1803 and a rewriting of many aspects of the social and economic development of the region.

It would be pertinent to inquire whether these records can be made accessible to researchers in the United States. Unquestionably it would be far better to visit Spain and conduct one's own search. The present lack of satisfactory cataloguing of the contents of the legajos makes almost imperative a sojourn in Seville for any extensive work. It is advisable for a student to have a speaking knowledge of Spanish, as from my experience no member of the staff in the Archivo, not even the Director, enjoyed a fluency in our tongue. This situation may be improved today owing to the presence of many American service men and their families in the country. In lieu of a personal search, it is possible to employ trained researchers at not too great expense. Photostats, transcriptions, and even microfilm can be obtained cheaply.

There are always delays and inconveniences, however, involved in securing materials from foreign archives. Most of us would prefer to use these rich sources at our leisure at home. What I should like to propose is that a microfilm be made of the more valuable papers relating to Louisiana. This is not an original idea in connection with collections in other countries, or even in the Archives of the Indies. Some years ago, in 1948, the University of California conceived of a project to microfilm all of the documents pertaining to the Pacific Coast and the American Southwest, which would save scholars the expense and the time consumed in traveling to Spain. It was an ambitious, commendable venture. The only flaw in this plan that it was overly ambitious, too comprehensive. And it ran up against the policy of the Spanish government which seeks to preserve the value of its archival treasures. The University of California was finally forced to give up the scheme of putting on film all of the records for the particular regions of interest. Nevertheless, invaluable records were secured and these are now available in the Bancroft Library for persons desiring to study the history of the Far West.

A similar project, though on a smaller scale, would I believe be feasible and practical for the state of Louisiana. In our case some action is of greater urgency because the physical condition of the manuscripts will not permit them to last indefinitely. Such a plan would have to be organized under the auspices of an agency of the state or possibly Louisiana State University. Certainly someone trained in recognizing the value of historical documents would have to be sent to Spain. We may profit by the experience of our fellow institution and follow a procedure of selective and restricted rather than wholesale filming. It is my conviction

that a scheme of limited proportions would receive the approval of the Spanish government. This would serve our purpose. If this project were completed, it would be a boon of inestimable worth in tracing genealogical records and in placing in its ~~prue~~ perspective one of the most important periods in our history.

STATE RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Mrs. G. H. L. Dunagin
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

Records in the National Archives are not arranged by States. Those relating to an individual state will be found among many collections of records in its custody. In the permanent reference correspondence file there is a folder on Louisiana. This folder includes a reference service report dated August 6, 1952, and entitled "Material relating to the Louisiana Purchase," as follows, except for the prices of reproductions that have changed since 1952:

August 6, 1952

REFERENCE SERVICE REPORT

INQUIRY: Material relating to the Louisiana Purchase

Report: The following maps relating to the Louisiana Purchase are in the Cartographic Records Branch of the National Archives.

From RG 77, Records of the Chief of Engineers:

Map No. M32. (Map of the Baton Rouge settlement, between the Mississippi and the Amite Rivers, showing the ownership of the land.) Scale 1 inch to 1 mile. Not dated. Dimensions 25 x 25 inches. Manuscript map on paper. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to one 17 x 25 inch sheet is 60 cents.

Map No. M35. "Map of the Washita (Ouachita) River in Louisiana from the Hot Springs to the Confluence of the Red River with the Mississippi, laid down from the Journal & Survey of William Dunbar, Esqr., in the year 1804 by Nicholas King . . ." Scale 1 inch to 8 miles. Dimensions 9 3/8 x 34 1/2 inches. Manuscript map on paper. Negative photostat to scale in two 17 x 23 inch sheets costs \$1.40.

Map No. M37. Map of the Territory of Spain along the Mississippi River south of Mississippi Territory. Shows settlements, rivers, roads and landings. No date. No scale. Dimensions 23 x 25 inches. Manuscript map on paper. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to one 17 x 25 inch sheet is 60 cents.

Map No. M40. "A map of Part of the State of Louisiana comprising the Lake Chitimacha and adjoining lakes with accurate soundings from actual survey and the notes of James Leander Cathcart and James Hutton." 1819 Scale 1 inch to 4 miles. Dimensions 27 x 47 inches. Published map on paper. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to four 17 x 25 inch sheets is \$2.90.

Map No. M53. "Map of the City of New Orleans and its vicinity: Showing the route of the British invading Army in 1814-15; and the Works constructed

since that period for its defenses . . . May, 1828, by Richd. Delafield, Lt. Corps of Engineers." Larhe scale manuscript map on paper. Dimensions 40 x 34 inches. A negative photostat to scale in four 17 x 25 inch sheets costs \$2.80.

Map No. M58. Map sketch of the mouth of the Mississippi River copied in 1858, from a chart by Dn. Juan de Langara, 1799 and 1805. Large scale manuscript map on paper. Dimensions 24 x 19 inches. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to one 17 x 25 inch sheet is 60 cents.

Map No. US113. (Map of the United States south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi showing the location of Indians.) No date. Large scale on paper. Dimensions of entire map 76 x 76 inches. Cost of a negative photostat to scale in 24 sheets is \$16.80. Cost of a negative photostat of Louisiana only in three sheets is \$2.10.

Map No. DS529. "A map of Lewis and Clark Track across the Western Portion of North America from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean . . . 1804, 5, & 6." Small scale manuscript map on paper. Dimensions 15 x 30 inches. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to one 17 x 23 inch sheet is 60 cents.

Map No. AMA21. A map of part of the Continent of North America, Between the 25th. and 51st degree of North Latitude, and extending from 89 degrees of West Longitude to the Pacific Ocean. Compiled from the Authorities of the best informed travelers, by Lewis . . . Copied by Nicholas King, 1808." Scale 1 inch to 50 miles. Dimensions 30 x 45 inches. Manuscript on paper. Negative photostat to scale on 4 sheets costs \$2.80.

Map No. M30. "Plan of the Red, Black and Washita (Ouachita) Rivers," -in French. No date but prior to 1800. Dimensions 17 x 22 inches. Manuscript map on paper. A negative photostat costs 50 cents.

FROM THE REFERENCE COLLECTIONS:

"Reference Map of the State of Louisiana from the Original Surveys of the United States which shows Spanish Grants, Townships, Sections, or mile squares, settlement rights, etc. Also the Planations with the owners names engraved thereon. Compiled and published by John La Tourrette, New Orleans, La., A.D., 1853." Scale 1 inch to 6 miles. Dimensions 55 x 61 inches. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to nine 17 x 23 inch sheets is \$6.40.

"A map of the State of Louisiana with part of the Mississippi Territory from actual Survey by Wm. Darby . . . 1816. Scale 1 inch to 10 miles. Dimensions 46 x 33 inches. Published map. Cost of a negative photostat reduced to four 17 x 23 inch sheets is \$2.90.

Likewise, in the reference correspondence folder on Louisiana, there is mentioned the following miscellaneous items in Territorial Papers, Orleans:

"Statement of the Population of the settlements of Upper Louisiana, with the Births, Marriages, Death, Stock and Productions of the Year, 1799."

"Census of the City of New Orleans, 1803."

The Territorial Papers are in the National Archives.

Also you will find the following publications of the National Archives of help to you:

Your Government's Records in the National Archives, 1950,
National Archives Publication No. 51-4, Washington, 1950.

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Introduction

General United States Government:

General Records of the United States Government. RG11

Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations. RG76

Records of United States Participating in International Conferences,
Commissions and Expositions. RG43

Legislative Agencies:

Records of the United States Senate. RG46

Records of the United States House of Representatives. RG233

Records of Joint Committees of Congress. RG128

Records of Exposition, Anniversary and Memorial Commissions of Congress. RG148

Records of the Temporary National Economic Committee. RG144

Records of the General Accounting Office. RG217:

The General Accounting Office was created in 1921. To it were transferred, with related records, the functions of the Comptroller of the Treasury and the six Auditors of the Department of the Treasury. The General Accounting Office, operating independently of the executive branch of the Government, provides a uniform settlement of all claims and accounts in which the United States is concerned. The records in the National Archives include records of pension payments to Army pensioners, 1818-64, and to Navy pensioners, 1815-94; records of settlements of pension claims by heirs of deceased pensioners, 1887-1908; and original executed contracts of the War and Navy Departments, 1894-1926, and of other agencies of the Government, 1913-26. 5,343 cubic feet.

Records of the Government Printing Office. RG149

Judicial Agencies

Presidential Agencies

Department of State

Department of the Treasury

Department of Defense

Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Department of Justice
Post Office Department
Department of the Interior
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Labor
Federal Security

Federal Works Agency (Records of the Work Projects Administration.

RG69: The records in the National Archives include central office files of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Civil Works Administration and the Work Projects Administration, 1933-44; records of the Federal Music, Art, Theatre, Writers'; and National Research Projects and of the Historical Survey; etc. 4,452 cubic feet.)

General Service Administration:

Records of the National Archives and Records Service. RG 64:
The National Archives, established as an independent agency in 1934, was transferred to the newly established General Services Administration in 1949, where it was redesigned as the National Archives and Records Service. It preserves and makes available for use the noncurrent records of the Federal Government that have continuing value, and plans, directs, and coordinates records-management practices throughout the Government . . . etc.

Some others are:

Housing and Home Finance Agency
World War I Emergency Agencies
World War II Emergency Agencies
Other Agencies of the United States Government

(Records of the Veterans' Administration. RG 15.

In 1930 the Veterans' Administration was established to consolidate in one agency the administration of pension, insurance, rehabilitation and other benefits. Noncurrent records of the Veteran's Administration and its predecessors, 1800-1949, are in the National Archives. They consist mainly of records accumulated in the settlement of claims for pension, bounty-land, or other benefits based on military or naval service from the Revolutionary War through World War I and of records relating to the vocational rehabilitation of disabled veterans of World War I and to the administration of war-risk insurance legislation of that war. 103,026 cubic feet.)

Other Governments.

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF THE LAND-ENTRY PAPERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
Preliminary Inventory No. 22, Washington, 1949

Military - bounty land warrants and related papers:

Warrants issued under Act of July 9, 1788

Warrants issued under Acts of March 3, 1803, and April 15, 1806
Virginia Military-Bounty-Land Warrants surrendered to the Federal
Government
Applications for Military-Bounty-Land Scrip
Virginia Resolutions Warrants
List of Federal Revolutionary-Bounty-Land Warrants preserved for
Registry
Treasury Certificates
Exchange Certificates
Revolutionary Warrants
Papers relating to Revolutionary-Bounty-Land Scrip
(Many, many others)

Entries arranged by State and name of District Land Office:

Louisiana (Louisiana and St. Helena Meridians), 665 ft: Pages
40-41; Preliminary Inventory No. 22, Washington: 1949: Attached.

"War Department Collections of Confederate Records"
. Preliminary Inventory No. 101, Washington, 1957:.

To analyze and describe the permanently valuable records of the Federal Government preserved in the National Archives Building is one of the main tasks of the National Archives. Various kinds of finding aids are needed to facilitate the use of these records, and the first step in the records-description program is the compilation of preliminary inventories of the material in the 280-odd record groups to which the holdings of the National Archives are allocated.

These inventories are called "preliminary" because they are provisional in character. They are prepared as soon as possible after the records are received without waiting to screen out all disposable material or to perfect the arrangement of the records. They are compiled primarily for internal use, both as finding aids to help the staff render efficient reference service and as a means of establishing administrative control over the records.

When the record group has been studied sufficiently and the records have been placed in final order, the preliminary inventories will be revised and the word "preliminary" dropped from the title of the revision.

"The War Department Collection of Confederate Records"
General Records of the Government of the Confederate States
of America:

Jefferson Davis Papers, 1861-65
Records of the War Department and the Army
Documents printed in The War of the Rebellion, 1860-65

Records Relating to Personnel and Accounts:

Record of Application for Appointment in the Army and Promotion
War Department Payrolls, July, 1862-March 1865
Papers relating to the War Department Accounts

Records of the Agent for the Exchange of Prisoners and other Records
Relating to Prisoners and Prisons:

Muster Rolls of Confederates who had been captured but had been parolled and exchanged. (Many, many other.)

Records Relating to Military Personnel:

Muster and Pay Rolls.
Many, many lists of Officers.
Rosters of Officers.

Records of Hospitals

Records Relating to Supplies and Accounts:

Clothing Rolls
Commutation Rolls
Miscellaneous Rolls
Record of Property Captured or Impressed, Capt. Richard V. Gaines,
Quarter-Master Department, Richmond, Virginia
Registers of Claims
Bounty Rolls

Records of Military Commands:

Administration of the Territory of the Confederate States, commanded by
Military Officers.

Records of the Departments of:

Mississippi and East Louisiana (and)
Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana

Records of the Army of Louisiana:

The Army of Louisiana, also called the Department of Louisiana, was organized in February, 1861. No record of the discontinuance of this command has been found. Louisiana was subsequently included in the Western Department.

Records of the Department of the West:

The Army of the West was organized in March, 1862 and in October of that year it was united with the Army of Tennessee.

Records of the Western Department:

The Western Department, also called Department No. 2, was established in June, 1861. Its boundaries were frequently changed and from time to time it included all or parts of the following states: Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri. In 1862, the Trans-Mississippi District, embracing parts of Louisiana, the Indian Territory, Arkansas and

Missouri, was established within the Western Department.

Records of Louisiana Troops, page 197:

Record of Louisiana Volunteer Regiments, 1861-63
Roster of the First Regiment of French Volunteers
Roster of Second Regiment of French Volunteers, 1862
Record Book of the Hospital of the 7th Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers, 1861
Cash Accounts, 7th Regiment of Louisiana Infantry, 1863-64
Clothing Account, 7th Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers, 1862

Miscellaneous Records (Too numerous to include)

Records of the Adjutant General's Office Relating to the
Military and Naval Service of Confederates:

"Carded" (Record showing Military Service, 1861-65 and later.)

Jackets containing cards showing the military service records of Officers, non-commissioned Officers and enlisted men. The cards show the name, rank, and organization of the individual; citations to documents on records from which the information was taken include Confederate Muster Rolls, Payrolls, rosters, appointment books, hospital registers, prison registers and rolls, parole rolls, inspection reports, and other records containing service information.

Special List Number 8 Population Schedules, 1800-1870

Volume Index to Counties and Major Cities, National Archives Publication
No. 51-18, Washington, 1951, Reissued 1957:

Population schedules of all decennial censuses of the United States from 1790 to 1880 are available for public use in the National Archives. This index shows what schedules the National Archives has for each state, territory, and the county and for a few large cities for the period, 1800-1870. The schedules for 1790 are not covered because almost all the data in them are published and well indexed in Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1790. (Washington, 1908) The 1880 schedules, which were not available for use in the National Archives when this index was originally prepared, are listed in Federal Population Censuses, 1840-80, a Price List of Microfilm Copies of the Original Schedules, described below:

The volumes referred to in this index are arranged by census year and within each census year by state or territory and thereunder, as a rule, by county. The volumes for 1830 and earlier are those of photostatic copies of the schedules, as the originals are too fragile for daily use. The volumes for the period 1840-70 are those of the originals. In 1850 and 1860 free and slave inhabitants were separately scheduled; the index therefore lists both classes of schedules for these years. For a few of the largest cities the index shows the breakdown into wards. The word "Missing" denotes that the schedules are not among the records transferred from the Bureau of the Census to the National Archives.

The index shows for each county the earliest decennial census(except 1790)

for which the National Archives has schedules. There may, however, be schedules of an earlier decennial census for the parent county or counties. The date established and, where appropriate, the names of the parent counties are shown for each county in the United States in a list compiled by F. Douglas Halverson. The list has been reprinted in E. Kay Kirkham, Research in American Genealogy, p. 114-203 (Salt Lake City, 1956).

Changes in names and boundaries of counties may also be found by examining maps compiled by the Department of Agriculture showing boundaries of states, territories and counties of the United States for the decennial years, 1840-70. These maps, each of which is 22½" by 34", are available for inspection at the National Archives. Photographic reproductions can be supplied for a fee.

Positive microfilm copies of the population schedules for the 1830 to 1880 censuses may be purchased from the National Archives. A descriptive list of the microfilm rolls covering the 1830 census schedules is contained in the List of National Microfilm Publications, Washington, 1953. Federal Population Censuses, 1840-80, a Price List of Microfilm Copies of the Original Schedules (Washington, 1955), covers the other schedules on microfilm. Both of these publications may be obtained without charge from the Exhibits and Publications Branch of the National Archives, Washington 25, D.C.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the War of 1812 in Organizations from the State of Louisiana.
(Pamphlet Accompanying Microcopy No. 229, Washington, 1955):

On the three rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers of the War of 1812 belonging to units from the State of Louisiana. The index contains most of the names of Louisiana soldiers to which references were found in the records used in compiling the service records. The cards give the name of the soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-reference cards for soldiers' names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Florida War in Organizations from the State of Louisiana,
(Pamphlet Accompanying Microfilm No. 239, Washington, 1958):

On the roll of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers belonging to units from the State of Louisiana who served in the Florida War during the year 1836. The index contains most of the names of Louisiana soldiers to which references were found in the records used in compiling the service records. The cards give the name of the soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-reference cards for soldiers' names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling, etc.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the War with Spain in Organizations from the State of Louisiana,
(Pamphlet Accompanying Microcopy 240, Washington, 1958)

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the War of 1837-38 in Organizations from the State of Louisiana,
(Pamphlet Accompanying Microcopy 241, Washington, 1958)

Maps in the Cartographic Records Branch, Washington, 1956:

A list of National Archives publications, including those relating to cartographic records, may be obtained upon request from the Exhibits and Publications Section, National Archives, General Services Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

Records in the National Archives Concerning Age and Citizenship, Washington, 1957:

Adoption records; birth records; census schedules; guardianship papers; homestead applications; naturalization records; passport applications; passenger lists (The National Archives has passenger lists for ships arriving in Baltimore, 1820-1919; Boston, 1883-99; New Orleans, 1820-97; New York, 1820-97; and Philadelphia, 1820-99. The lists of earlier dates than 1905 give the age of each person.)

Form NA-288, Request for Record Search Regarding Soldier or Veteran

The form shows the types of information needed to make effective searches in the pension and bounty land warrant application files and military service records.

A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY:
HOW DOES ONE START?

James S. Cookston
Instructor in Library Science
Louisiana State University

Ladies and Gentlemen:.

I feel honored to be asked to talk with you today about a subject that has captured my interest for a long time. However, I feel more honored that I am the one asked to speak on the subject to such a distinguished group -- a group that, I am sure, could tell me many useful things on how to begin genealogical research, things that you have known for years. So, when I start telling you things that you know already, just take out your newspapers and read something more useful.

The word genealogy has its derivation, according to Webster's International Dictionary, from the Middle English word genealogi, which came from the French genealogie, which then came from Latin and Greek genealogia. The stem of the word, genea, means "descent" and logos means "a discourse on". So you see the word genealogy has a genealogy all in itself. Webster's defines genealogy as "the history of a person, family, or group from one ancestor, or ancestors". It further defines the term as the "regular descent of a person from a progenitor". Lastly, Webster's says "the study of family pedigrees and methods of investigating them, regarded as a science or an art".

Genealogy, or family history, has long interested individuals and groups. It has been undertaken as both serious research and as a pastime. Some have entered into genealogy with the purpose of eventually publishing family histories after sufficient data has been compiled; some with the purpose of meeting requirements for membership into various organizations, both patriotic and social; and some for claims -- such as the Choctaw Indians of Mississippi.

Individuals throughout the ages have been conscious of their family status. They have held in high esteem their ancestors. Perhaps the earliest endorsement we have to genealogy is found in Job 8:8-10:

- 8 For inquire, I pray you, of bygone ages,
And consider what the fathers have found;
9 For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing,
For our days on earth are a shadow.
10 Will they not teach you, and tell you,
And utter words out of their understanding?

We know that the Book of Matthew in the New Testament carries full and complete genealogies. We know of the reverence the Chinese have held for their honorable ancestors and oldest members of the family. We know from our studies and readings in history that the royal families of Europe have followed the custom from early days of arranging marriages for their children, one purpose being to keep the family lines "straight". A more modern endorsement of genealogy is given us by Longfellow in "The Courtship of Miles Standish" where we find the good Captain speaking proudly of his illustrious ancestor, Hugh Standish of England:

"Although Americans appearingly are not as family-conscious as most foreigners, many of us are curious enough and interested enough to trace our pedigrees or genealogies back as far as possible."

Gilbert Doane, in his book Searching for Your Ancestors, states that during the past twenty-five years a great deal of interest in genealogy has developed in America. The reports of the Genealogical Room of the Newberry Library in Chicago show a constantly increasing use of this library during the 25 year period. More than 18,000 searchers after ancestors use this room annually. In 1626 this number would have exceeded the entire white population of the American colonies; in 1726 there were not this many white people west of the Alleghenies; and in 1826 the entire white population of Cook County, Illinois did not exceed 300.

When we ask the question "Where does one start?", we might go to the other end of the rope and ask "Where does one end up?" Perhaps the best words of wisdom that I can offer you this afternoon is this: If one doesn't start his research and continue his work in a systematic manner, he can end up with chaos -- and reams and reams and files and files of notes.

Well, exactly where does one begin? In a mimeographed paper I have prepared for you, I have set forth some suggestions that might be helpful to you. At least these procedures were helpful to me -- in addition to being just plain lucky.

For the beginner or the person unfamiliar with genealogical research, I would suggest that he first read, or examine, or familiarize himself with some technique books. Most of these books, in addition to being very factual and helpful, are very readable and entertaining. On your sheet I have suggested:

Doane, Searching for Your Ancestors

Hopkins, Your Family Tree

Handy Book for Genealogists, by the Everton Publishers,
Freq. Rev.

Obviously, there are many others; such as:

Kirkham, E.K. ABC's of Am. Genealogical Research,
Authur, Salt Lake City.

Willis, A.J. Genealogy for Beginners, McClelland, 1955.

Bennett, A.F. Guide for Genealogical Research, Genealogical
Society, Salt Lake City, 1951.

D.A.R. Missouri, Genealogical Guide: The Master Index of
Genealogical Materials in D.A.R. Magazines, 1892-1950.

An interesting and enlightening magazine article is entitled "Big Ancestor Hunt" by M. Lehman, in the Saturday Evening Post of January 15, 1949, pp. 22-23.

After the beginner has examined some technique or "how to" materials, he perhaps should see that genealogical research is divided into three steps: I call these (1) Preliminaries, (2) Library Research, and (3) Miscellany.

PRELIMINARIES

For the preliminary suggestions, I would suggest the following:

1. Always proceed from the present to the past. It is easier this way because more is known about the present and recent generations than about the earlier ones. This procedure will aid in preventing misidentification of persons, and will reduce the danger of trying to follow a branch line, instead of your own main line. Some researchers have reported success of tracing genealogy from an ancestor in the distant past to himself. More power to them, especially if they know definitely that the person in consideration was their ancestor.

2. Remember that the spelling of your name, or any name, may have changed through the years. Do not be confused by it. Face facts; we all had uneducated ancestors. Clerks were often untrained, and spelling of names was often done phonetically as best as the poor clerk could. An important and necessary task

is to verify the name or names under investigation.

3. Respect the traditions about your ancestors which have been handed down in your family, but do not regard them as more authoritative than records you find. These traditions usually have a basis of truth, but some of the details may have been twisted and changed through the years.

4. Check carefully any story that you are related to a famous person. You may very well be, but simply because your name is Lee, or Adams, or Washington, does not necessarily mean that you are related to the famous personages of history.

5. Observe and be aware that many town and county boundaries are not the same as they used to be. Some areas are larger or smaller than they were formerly, and some have had their names changed. In many cases two or three counties have been formed from one large county, as Old Tishomingo County, Mississippi. The State of Tennessee once covered a great deal more territory than it does today. As a result of recent wars we have seen geographical changes in the European countries. Be sure that you find the name of the old town or county where your relatives lived.

If these preliminary suggestions are adhered to, I believe that you will find your research easier, and fewer headaches will be experienced.

LIBRARY RESEARCH

A word later about contacting family members, but after you have collected all possible information from your family and relatives, you are ready to undertake library research. With the preliminary suggestions in mind, you are ready to consult the various indexes in the genealogical or historical department of a library. If possible, try to find:

1. An entire book treating the history of your family.
2. A comprehensive account, in any genealogy or other published work, containing a history of your family.
3. An article, in any genealogical or historical periodical, giving a partial history of your family.

Again, bear in mind the many variations of spellings of names.

In these materials you will be surprised to find more information than you dreamed existed. If you are fortunate you will

find the record of your particular family in one of these accounts. If you are not, you will have to search further.

The next step is to find clues in town or county histories. Occasionally a person will find a short biography in one of these works. Be sure, again, to learn the old names of the towns and counties where your families lived, and consult the histories of these old places.

MISCELLANY

On the mimeographed sheet, I have given the statement, "Go from the obvious to the obscure". To begin a genealogy, one must begin with himself. This is where the pedigree chart becomes useful. The sheets are simple to use. Here you should list all the information that you know that is asked for on the sheet. After you have exhausted your knowledge, it's time to consult the older members of the families.

Not many of us have grandparents living now, but everybody has an aunt or uncle still living who is an excellent source of information. Everybody knows who his grandparents were; hence giving another generation to add to the pedigree chart.

We must remember that older people (as well as us younger ones) have lapses in memory, and a question asked today might not get its answer until tomorrow. Consult family members several times since memory does play tricks and today's data may be entirely changed tomorrow. Be skeptical about information from members of the family, and do not enter a name or date as authentic until it can be verified by record. If families are scattered, it may take dozens of letters and months to get to the bottom of all questions that could produce information. Besides uncles and aunts, you should write cousins of third, fourth, fifth, etc. degree who may have records of a deceased member of the family.

FAMILY BIBLES

Family Bibles are one of the best sources of data, if the Bibles can be located. Bibles have strange ways of turning up in unexpected places. Valuable records of a complete family or families can often be found here. Usually the records are found on the pages between the two Testaments, but if not there, search other places. Some Bibles did not include such pages for recordings, and the information was entered on loose sheets and inserted loosely into the Bible as in the case of my own experience.

If possible try to determine when the Bible was printed. If the title page is dated 1815, for example, you know immediately that any records dated before then were entered from memory. In this event

these records should be carefully verified. If the handwriting in which the records were written is of several different periods, then you may be reasonably certain that you have a genuine old record. The valuable records coming from Bibles consist, in the main, of marriages, births, and deaths.

If possible, get the record photostated. In copying the data, copy it exactly as you find it. Don't try to improve on spelling.

In addition to births, marriages, and deaths in the Bible, search to see whether or not any other documents such as letters are there. You know, the Bible often made a good hiding place or served often as a safe deposit box.

CEMETERIES

One of the best ways to verify Bible records or any record is to visit the cemetery where your ancestors are buried. Take with you an older member of the family to point out and explain the relationship that existed between those buried in the family plots or near it. Many people take photographs of family tombstones to serve as the official record.

Tombstones are often hard to read. They have weathered and turned black over the years. One of our charter members and first curator, the late Mrs. Giere, told successfully of taking a cheap can of talcum powder and a powder puff to whiten the stone, therefore making reading easy. A piece of chalk can be taken and run over the letters to make reading easy.

Sometimes it pays to examine the cemeteries in the towns which border on that in which your people lived. Just because the ancestors lived in McMinn County, Tennessee is no proof that they were buried in the main cemetery in Athens. In this particular county, as in others, there were many cemeteries in outlying areas. In past decades there were more private cemeteries than there are today. Try to locate these. Also, it was not uncommon in the past for a person to be buried on his own land or at the edge of the clearing.

LEGAL RECORDS

Courthouse records are very valuable, and are not too difficult to use after the first introduction. Usually the Clerk of Court or one of his clerks is willing to show you what material is available and how to find it. Until recent years, the job was immensely difficult because of the lack of indexes; however, in the 1930's, one of the WPA projects was to index recorded materials in court houses.

The main records to look for in court houses are: probate records, marriage records, and land records. These are of the most value to the genealogist. The probate, or succession, records were filed shortly after the death of an individual, and gave the name of the wife (or husband), some of the relatives who came into court in "family meeting", and if there was a will, the names of those who benefitted from it. The will itself was also recorded.

Marriage records supply the name of the two parties, and the date the licence was issued. Early records, called BONDS, often listed the bride's father who was her bondsman.

Land records were usually conveyances of one kind or another -- for sale of land, purchase of land, or merely transfers of a piece of property. The document usually read that the land was transferred to the man and his "heirs and assigns forever" and occasionally the document listed the heirs.

VITAL STATISTICS

Most states have offices of vital statistics. Before trying to obtain birth or death records, it would be well to take your technique book and try to determine whether or not this office has records for the dates in which you are interested. If I am correct, in Louisiana there are only a scattering of birth and death records from 1819 to 1900.

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records are very important for us. There are military records of all types and descriptions to be found. Registers, rolls, and rosters of Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers are available. Individuals and societies have undertaken the project of publishing many of them. If you know that your ancestor was a Louisianian and was in the Civil War, by all means check the three-volume record of Andrew B. Booth's Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands. This, however, like many of our records was not complete. This morning Mrs. Dunigan told you about records in the National Archives.

CHURCH RECORDS

Long before the earliest colonists came to America, it had become the custom in most European countries to keep records of the members of the ecclesiastical parishes. In 1538 the Parliament in England passed laws requiring that registers be kept of all marriages, christenings, and burials within its jurisdiction.

In this country the records were usually kept by the ministers. Often the minister moved to another church and took the records with him. Many have been destroyed by fire, and many unfortunately were thrown away when space became limited. Occasionally they were deposited for safekeeping in some secure place and forgotten. This is the case of many churches going out of existence.

Church records are often hard to read or decipher. Here in Louisiana many of the early records were recorded in French and Spanish. Handwriting is often hard to read, too. But in the case of church records, or your Bible records, copy exactly what you see written. Do not try to improve on them.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

I'll not go into detail of genealogical queries that can be submitted, other than to tell you that they often bring surprising and excellent results. I still owe my unending gratitude to our own Mr. Nick Murray, publisher of the Hammond Sun, for running a query for me some years ago asking information on the Stovall family. My query was read by a lady in Abilene, Texas who in turn sent it to a genealogist in Washington who was writing a history of the Stovall family. From this man, I was able to get the complete Stovall data. On your sheet, I have listed several sources where you might submit queries. Sometimes small fees are charged. Try to find out the form that is to be used.

BOOKSTORES

Bookstores and bookshops often publish their genealogical holdings from time to time. I have listed for you the Southern Book Company in Baltimore and Goodspeed's Book Shop in Boston as very reliable firms. They, as well as others, will be happy to put you on their mailing lists. The price of these books might seem fantastic upon first glance, but often it costs less to buy a reliable book than to hire someone to copy the information you want from the Library of Congress or elsewhere. A memorandum from the Library of Congress says "Family histories as a rule are not published through the ordinary book trade. They are usually printed for the compiler who arranges for the greater part of the issue to advance subscribers. After the first distribution, the most practical way to obtain copies is to apply to a second hand dealer who specializes in works of this sort".

LIBRARIES

Being a librarian, I can't pass this opportunity to put in a plug for my profession. In our Institute last year, I was some-

what amused at remarks made by participants about librarian's lack of interest in genealogy, and then the librarian's remarks, that we are not enemies of the genealogists. Very often, the truth of the matter is, the librarian knows nothing about genealogy and we may not know what we're looking for, therefore, no meeting of minds. In Louisiana, we are fortunate to have many good libraries, that can furnish us with information. The holdings in the libraries are good. I have listed for you the EBR Parish Library which has about 500 volumes for genealogical research. This collection is the results of the efforts of the local DAR's. I have visited the genealogical collection at the Shreve Memorial Library in Shreveport, and found that the collection there is very good. Both LSU and Tulane libraries have a wealth of information for us. In the university libraries, the materials are not necessarily grouped together. In our own LSU Library, the materials are located in the Louisiana Collection, archives in the microfilm department, and in the 900 section of the Dewey Classification. These three departments happen to be on two different floors.

CENSUS RECORDS

Census records in this country are available. However, they are not complete. The first census of 1790 summarized the family names only. From 1810 to 1840 the heads of the families were given and the members were broken down by the number of males and number of females.

From 1850 on, the census listed all members of the family, telling when and where each was born.

Census records are available for research on microfilm. Often the reading is difficult, but a great deal of information is available.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Fortunately, for us, a great deal of materials and supplies are not necessary. To my knowledge, a note book, a magnifying glass, a ruler, and pencils or pen are all that's necessary. All records should be placed in a safe place, preferably fireproof, and perhaps under lock and key.

Mr. Doane tells us that the foremost equipment is AN INQUISITIVE MIND TO ASK QUESTIONS AND DIG FOR FACTS.

PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS

After we have done all we can, hit snags, and have encountered unsurmountable problems, we often turn to the professional genealogist.

Various fees are charged. The true professional genealogist has spent years learning his profession and usually can untie the knots if at all possible. Before engaging a professional genealogist, be sure he is reliable. The Library of Congress can furnish you with a list of recommended professionals.

VALUES OF GENEALOGY

Genealogy is fun, interesting, and intriguing. It takes time and requires patience and persistence. It is more than digging for lost ancestors and simply collecting names. It takes you to strange places, and opens many avenues of interest for you. Genealogy is living history, both American and foreign. You will encounter many scoffers (including your own relations) who will laugh at your endeavors, and call you "nuts". They will urge you to forget the past, and live in the present. They think of genealogy as something "dry as dust".

What they don't know is that genealogy is a stimulating, living study, well worth pursuing.

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR DIGGING!

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BEGINNING GENEALOGIST

- I. Become familiar with technique books which will help you in conducting genealogical research. Suggested are:
 - A. Doane, Gilbert H., Searching for your Ancestors; the How and Why of Genealogy. University of Minnesota Press, 1948.
 - B. Hopkins, Garland E., Your Family Tree; How to Trace Your Ancestors. Dietz Press, 1949.
 - C. Handy Book for Genealogists. Everton Publishers. Logan, Utah. Revised Frequently.
- II. Go from the obvious to the obscure.

Secure a pedigree chart and record what you know; i.e., you are the first generation, your parents are the second, your grandparents are the third, etc.
- III. Members of the family

Consult older members of your family. Write all that they can tell you -- names, dates, locations, etc. Consult them several times since memory often fails them.
- IV. Family Bibles

Consult family Bibles for family records. If possible get the pages photostated and certified.
- V. Cemeteries

Visit family cemeteries to secure data from tombstones. If possible take a picture of the tombstone.
- VI. Family letters

Read old family letters to determine whether or not names, dates, and location of your ancestors can be found.
- VII. Legal records

Visit court houses or write to Clerks of Court in parishes or counties where your ancestors lived. The following information can be obtained: wills, marriage licences, deeds, court proceedings, etc.
- VIII. Vital statistics

Consult state bureaus of vital statistics to secure birth and death records.
- IX. Military records

Consult military records. For example:
Department of Archives & History, Jackson 5, Miss.
Commissioner of Pensions - Revolutionary War, Washington, D. C.
General Services Adm., National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Booth, Andrew B., Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands. 3 vols.
New Orleans, n.d.
- X. Church records

Church records will reveal baptismal and marriage dates

XI. Queries

Submit queries to the following publications. Seomtimes nominal fees will be charged:

- A. Genealogical Helper, Logan, Utah.
- B. Genealogy and History, Box 1717, Washington 13, D.C.
- C. The Hartford Times, 10 Prospect St., Hartford 1, Conn.
- D. Bulletin of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, P.O. Box 335, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- E. The Hammond Sun, N.R. Murray, Publisher, Hammond, La.

XII. Bookstores

Bookstores and shops publish their genealogical holdings from time to time. Get on their mailing list. Two reliable firms are:

- A. Southern Book Company, 6 E. Franklin St., Baltimore, Md.
- B. Goodspeed's Book shop, 18 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

XIII. Libraries

Visit the following libraries and browse through their genealogical collection:

- A. East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library, 700 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- B. Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana.
- C. LSU Library, LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
(Louisiana Collection, Archives, Microfilm, History Section).
- D. Howard Tilton Library, Tulane Campus, New Orleans, La.
- E. Louisiana D.A.R. Collection, Housed in DeSoto Parish Public Library, Mansfield, Louisiana.

XIV. REMEMBER: Genealogical research requires TIME, PATIENCE, AND PERSISTENCE.

Genealogical research can be made either expensive or inexpensive. Before engaging a professional genealogist, be sure he is reliable.

MATERIALS NEEDED IN GENEALOGY

- 1. Notebook with rings (8½ x 11)
- 2. Magnifying glass for reading old records
- 3. Ruler for keeping on right line when reading small letters.
- 4. Pencils
- 5. A safe place to store records, preferably fireproof and with key
- 6. AN INQUISITIVE MIND TO ASK QUESTIONS AND DIG FOR FACTS

SOME HELPFUL ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE GENEALOGIST

Many abbreviations are used in genealogy. It would be well to learn the most common ones:

b.....born
biog...biography
bk.....book
bro....brother
ca, or cir...around, about
co.....county
d.....died
D.B....Deed Book
dau....daughter
descs..descendents.
do.....ditto, the same
d.s.p..died without issue
d. unm...died unmarried
fam....family
F.I.A.G....Fellow, Institute
 of American Genealogy
Geneal....Genealogical
Hist. Soc...Historical Society
I.A.G...Institute American Genealogy
ibid....the same
gr. father....grandfather
gr. gr. father....great grandfather
inf.....infancy
Jr.....Junior
m.....married
mem.....member
ms.....manuscript
mss.....manuscripts
ob.....died
O.B.....Order Book
p.....page
pish....parish
pp.....pages
Q.V.....which see
s.....son
sis.....sister
Sr.....Senior
supra....above
unm.....unmarried
Vol.....volume
W.B.....Will Book

----from Your Family Tree by Hopkins,
pp 10-11.

HERALDRY

Mrs. Irby C. Nichols
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

The very word "Heraldry" calls up visions of pagentry and state, or the pomp and circumstance of medieval war with a blaze of color and decoration on shield and banner.

Heraldry, defined as "the act or science of blazoning or describing in appropriate technical terms coats of arms and other armorial insignia," was largely employed during the feudal ages to display the exploits of chivalry and to reward as well as to commemorate its triumphs over oppression and violence. But the system is of very ancient origin. In all ages and in all quarters of the world distinguishing symbols have been adopted by tribes or nations, by families and by chieftains. Greek and Roman poets describe the device borne on the shields of heroes, and many such painted shields are pictured on antique vases. The tribes of Israel set up standards on their camps which bore figures devised from the prophecy of Jacob, the ravening wolf for Benjamin, the lion's whelp for Judah and the ship of Zebulon.

The oldest record of a coat of arms as we know it was that of Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, which dates from 1127, when he was ceremonially knighted by Henry I of England, upon his marriage to the Empress Maud, daughter of Henry I. A record of this was written at the time by a monk, John of Marmoustier. He recorded that Henry I hung about the neck of his son-in-law a shield, painted azure, and bearing six golden lioncels. Shoes similarly adorned were put on his feet. This Geoffrey, nicknamed Plantagenet, because he wore in his hat a twig of the broom plant, established the longest line of English kings. His grandson bore the same shield. Later descendants reduced the lioncels to three and changed the color of the shield from azure to gules. Thus we find it in the royal arms of England today.

In the East we have such ancient symbols as the five-clawed dragon of the Chinese empire and the chrysanthemum of the Emperor of Japan. In Japan the badges borne by the noble clans seem akin to the heraldry of the West. Before the landing of the Spaniards in Mexico, the Aztec chiefs carried shields and banners whose devices represented the names of the bearers. The mysterious totem poles discovered among most primitive peoples must be regarded as another forerunner of modern heraldry.

In its modern sense, however, the heraldic art dates from the time of the Crusades, and was reduced to its present system by the French. It was not until the Crusades that the crest was worn upon the helmet by kings, knights and warriors. It was generally made of wood or of stiffened leather and was laced onto the top of the helmet. This figure was worn so that the bearer might be distinguished in battle and that note might be taken of valorous actions.

Feathers were very generally borne as crests in the Middle Ages and these were often formed into an upright set of plumes. Badges were also worn on the arm. In later times the symbols of the individual were transferred to the shield or armor and to the coat worn over the armor. (Hence the origin of the term coat of arms.)

In the Middle Ages, heralds were the professional criers or proclaimers. When a knight entered a tournament it was the herald's duty to recognize him and announce his name and titles to the assembled company. Their concern with coats of arms sprang from their need to know who a knight was. They were bound to have a special knowledge. The term heraldry comes from this function of the heralds. Later they supplied data to a college of arms for granting insignia, so that no two coats would be alike.

An erroneous idea is entertained by some that heraldic symbols denote an aristocratic or exclusive class, and are undemocratic in their origin. On the contrary, these badges of distinction were the reward of personal merit and could be secured by the humblest as well as the highest. They are today testimonials and warrants of bravery, heroism and meritorious deeds of our ancestors.

Modern armies have inherited the idea. British regiments have always used heraldic symbols. They did not come into official use in our own Army until 1919 when the War Department authorized them and prescribed in detail their general characteristics.

The Quartermaster General's Office has a number of reproductions of corps and division insignia dating back to the Civil War. In World War I they were not adopted officially for divisions until the summer of 1918 in France. The 81st Division, The Wildcat, arrived in France with the familiar shoulder patch which was then unauthorized. Authorities of the AEF were quick to see its possibilities as a means of identification and the value in developing the spirit of the division, and directed all division commanders to adopt distinctive shoulder patches.

At the present time all regular Army regiments, national guard and reserve organizations, as well as those of the Navy and Marines, have adopted distinctive insignia. We are all familiar with many of these from their wide use in World War II. The War Department approves the design to prevent duplication. Each insignia perpetuates in heraldic form the notable achievements of the outfit. Just as these matters are handled in the Quartermaster General's Office for the divisions of the service, so the College of Arms in London, England, and in the various other European countries, authorizes the armorial bearings to be used by various orders, cities, sovereigns and individuals. Men are still being knighted for deeds of prowess and bravery and the college of arms attends to the designing of their arms.

Full consideration is given to the knight's wishes as to the emblems he would like to employ, and the college sees to it that there is no duplication of arms already existing. The design is beautifully emblazoned on vellum, placed in a red morrocco case and handed to the

individual newly knighted. Thus heraldry is still alive.

In countries where a college of heralds exists, and where knight-hood continues, women have a right to their fathers' coats of arms but cannot transmit them to their children. On marriage, if her husband has a coat of arms, he may impale her arms with his, that is, place them side by side with his arms on the same shield, or her arms may be placed on a small shield in the center of the husband's shield.

If a woman has no brothers leaving descendants her children may quarter her arms with their father's arms and their descendants may continue to use the quartered coat.

A blazon is the description of a coat of arms in technical language. A number of principal terms and a conventional order of description had crystallized by the 13th century. The shield is described first, the crest next, and then the motto is given.

The shield has always been the most important part of a warrior's defensive armor, and at almost all times it has been decorated with some device or figure, and so the shield in the family coat of arms bears the charges or designs pertaining to the family history, i.e. Gordon Arms. Shields in heraldry are called escutcheons. The shape has varied in different ages from the simplest form to the most elaborate.

Next in importance to the shield as a means of protection comes the helmet. The purpose of the helmet in heraldry is to bear the crest. In England there are definite types of helm laid down for each rank or degree from esquire to sovereign. The helmet of the sovereign and of princes of the blood royal must be of gold; they must face the front and must be of the barred type. For peers of the realm the helmets are again of the barred type, but they are supposed to be placed in profile. They are silver and have five gold bars. For baronets and knights, steel helms are used and the latter must be open. The "esquire's" of a gentleman's helmet is steel and must be placed sideways, i.e., in profile. These steel helmets may be ornamented with gold. It is the custom to show all helmets lined with crimson silk. Above the helmet, resting on a twist of color and metal, appears the crest. Every description of bird, animal, human and inanimate charge is used as a crest.

While it is possible to bear a shield of arms and have no crest to go with it, it is quite impossible to possess a crest without the accompanying coat. Many bearers of a shield of arms were granted their arms before the days of crests. But since the coming of the crests, the latter has never been granted without arms to go with it.

The mantling is believed to have had its origin as a piece of cloth which covered the helmet and hung down the back. It was intended to shield the wearer from the heat of the sun.

In modern heraldry, the tinctures employed in the mantling are, unless otherwise specified, the colours of the arms, i.e., the mantling is painted of the first color mentioned in the heraldic description, and

it is lined with the first metal mentioned. The form of the mantling and whether or not it is ornamented with tassels are matters of artistic embellishment left to the artist to design.

Supporters are figures placed in the attitude of holding up or supporting a shield. They are taken from every living or imaginary creature - human figures, animals, beasts, birds, monsters, etc.

The supporters are a special grant of distinction. In England the following may bear supporters: all peers of the realm; Knights of the Garter, Thistle and St. Patrick; all knights; Grand Cross of the Orders of Knighthood. Besides these a considerable number of persons have the right admitted "through ancient usage."

A motto is generally, though not always, an accompaniment to the coat of arms. In battle the motto was used as a war-cry; it generally bore reference to the family name, crest, or to some charge on the field. Some mottos take the form of a prayer. Examples of punning mottos are often found.

In England the motto is not hereditary, and may be changed at will without reference to the Officer of Arms. As a rule, it is not included in the grant unless the grantee so desires. It is customary to place the motto on a scroll under the shield. In Scotland the reverse is true. The motto is included in the patent and it is also specified, as a rule, where the scroll is to be put. This is nearly always above the crest.

Several heraldic authorities maintain that the scroll is really the sword belt of the knight, but there is little proof of this.

The tinctures of heraldry comprise two metals, five colors and various furs.

The two metals are gold and silver, known respectively as or (denoting generosity) and argent (figuratively purity, innocence, beauty or gentleness). The five colors are red as blazoned gules, blue as azure, black as sable, green as vert and purple as pupure. There are two main varieties of fur of which four types are derived from the ermine pattern and the remainder from the "Vair" (Varus the Animal) pattern.

Cadency in England and Ireland

Charges borne by the sons upon their paternal arms:

1. The label by the eldest son during father's lifetime
2. The crescent by the second son
3. The mullet by the third son
4. The martlet by the fourth son
5. The annulet by the fifth son
6. The fleur-de-lis by the sixth son
7. The rose by the seventh son
8. The cross by the eighth son
9. The double quaterfail by the ninth son.

The marks of bastardy were used upon the shield by bearer, and not to show that he was illegitimate but that he was not an hereditary heir.

The lion, the king of beasts, ranks first among the animals employed as charges in heraldry and he is supposed to symbolize nobleness of nature, courage and generosity. The lion was the engisn of Scotland, as he was of the native princes of Wales and of the kings of Norway and of Denmark.

From the time that they first possessed any true heraldic insignia, the sovereigns of England have borne lions upon the royal shield. The true heraldic lion is represented with a fierceness which is almost grotesque.

The eagle, the king of birds, ranks highest among birds used in heraldry. The eagle is generally borne displayed. It is the emblem of St. John, for which reason eagles of brass are fixed on lecterns. The eagle is also an emblem of regal and temporal power.

The chevron, shaped like the gable of a house, stands for the protection of the roof-tree.

Symbols of the Crusades are the cross, the crescent and the scallop shell. The bee is the emblem of industry.

The bezant, a golden roundel, represented in English heraldry as a flat circular piece of gold, derives its name from a coin of Byzantium. Three bezants were part of the arms of Lombardy, and were anciently used by bankers of that country as a device. This was the origin of the three golden balls of the pawnbroker.

The castle, represented as a wall and gate between two towers, was originally granted as a charge to knights, or others who aided in the destruction of them.

The cock is an emblem of vigilance.

The dog is the emblem of fidelity.

The dragon is the emblem of pestilence.

Ermine, the fur of the white robes of royalty and of judges, is emblematical of purity and honor without stain.

The fleur-de-lis, the heraldic conventional form of the lily, "Flower of Louis," was the emblem of the kings of France as far back as the days of Clovis, the Frankish form of the modern Louis. The early arms of France show the fleur-de-lis.

A red hand (left hand) extending upward is the badge of the baronet. The lymphad, an ancient galley with one mast, is said to be a representation of the Viking ship.

The oak is the emblem of strength.

The olive tree is the emblem of peace and concord.

No one can say just how many of the founders of our American families were entitled to arms, but the New England Historic Genealogical Society has been interested in heraldry from its beginning and that Society is making a roll of all the coats of arms used by right by American families. A committee welcomes applications for the registration of coats of arms by persons residing in any part of the country. The fee for examining the evidence of the right of the immigrant ancestor to the coat and for its registration is \$5.00.

It has been a custom of many people in America to appropriate a coat of arms belonging to some family of the same surname. They may or may not have a right to this coat. The proof would lie in establishing descent from the actual family to whom the coat was granted by the College of Arms in England, Scotland, France, or whatever the ancestral country was from which the family came to America. There were many families of the same name who were entirely unrelated. Smith, Carpenter, etc., were trade names and might have belonged to many families of no blood connection.

What evidence makes a prima facie case? The arms may have been used by the immigrant ancestor on a seal which he affixed to documents. It may have been engraved on silver, used on a bookplate, painted on a coach door, engraved on his tomb, carved on a stone over his door, or painted in a corner of the portrait of the ancestor. When lineal descent can be proved from such immigrant ancestors who brought the arms to America, then the persons in this family have a right to display and to use the arms. Many families have old engravings of these coats in family documents and these would constitute "proof."

The committee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society would like for its work to be better known and it is anxious that every coat of arms used by right by American families find its rightful place in the Roll of Arms. An article in the DAR magazine of January, 1950, gives more details on this service.

We in America who love our family history take pleasure in using the coats of arms of our ancestors for decorative purposes, and as symbols to inspire in our children appreciation of family traditions.

INTRODUCTION OF HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN

Mrs. Irby C. Nichols
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

While I was talking to you a few minutes ago, I noticed a gentleman come into the room; and I thought that surely my eyes had deceived me. About five years ago, I had the pleasure of beginning a correspondence with Mr. Harry Wright Newman, the eminent genealogist from Washington, D.C. Mr. Newman lists his profession as Genealogy and Heraldry.

I regret that I cannot list his entire bibliographical repertoire, but I do know that he has written such books as The Lucketts of Porta Boca, The Stones of Poynton Manor, and my genealogical favorite, Anne Arundel Gentry.

In addition, we, as genealogists and historians, owe our gratitude to Mr. Newman for these and other works including an excellent roster of Maryland Revolutionary records.

I would like to present to you a real author, historian and genealogist--Mrs. Harry Wright Newman.

TALK BY MR. NEWMAN

I am not prepared to speak to this group today, mainly due to throat difficulties resulting from my coming from a harsh cold climate to your warm South.

However, I wish to commend you for the work that this organization is doing in genealogy. I feel that you have the true spirit of genealogy. You are not doing it for superficial purposes, but in the spirit of true Americanism.

We can be proud to tell our children and grandchildren the heroic parts their ancestors and forefathers played in the building of America. When we are able to do this, I believe that we will be able to prevent our posterity from intermarrying into lesser races. And I am afraid that the intermarriage of Americans with mongrel races is a problem that is facing America.

Thank you.

LOUISIANA'S ARCHIVAL PROGRAM

John C. L. Andreassen, Director
State Archives and Records Commission

"What is past is prologue," has been the text of many an archivist's paper. It seems to me that here in Louisiana, that "Prologue" has been a pretty long one. I don't, for one, believe that we can be too sure that the "Prologue" is quite over even yet. True, we have some good archival and records legislation on our statute books. True, we have received the first annual appropriation for the operation of the State Archives and Records Commission. True, we now have a small staff working hard at getting things underway. It is also true that a growing number of legislators and top and middle level administrators are becoming more and more conscious of the need for modern archival and records practices. However, progress is slow progress; oftentimes most discouragingly slow progress. Probably, I'd better forego the use of "What is past is prologue" as a text.

Some months ago, I had conversation with your Program Chairman for this Second Annual Genealogical Institute. The gist of it went something like this: "Now, Mary Elizabeth, after a good meal at the Faculty Club out at the University, I suppose that what our Genealogical group will want to hear is something pretty light. After all, they'll have been through a full day of professional sessions. Now, what do you think?" The answer wasn't long in coming. "Genealogists are serious people; .. they'll want to hear serious talk.". And that pretty much settled that.

I can tell you that the reason I choose to work in the field of archives and records management in the State of Louisiana today, is because here is truly one of the areas of greatest neglect over the thirteen score years of permanent settlement in this area. At one time or another over the past thirty years I have worked on other aspects involving this State's cultural heritage. If our various levels of government in Louisiana had not just spent something over \$10,000,000 on library buildings, if they were not now spending almost \$500,000 annually for library materials, if we didn't have one of the best and most up-to-date check lists of State Documents, if the Check-List of Louisiana Newspapers were not substantially complete, if the Louisiana Union Catalog were not going to press for publication in book form on January 15, 1959, if the National Historical Publications Commission was not publishing its Guide to Depositories of Archives and Manuscripts in the United States, and the Writings on American History, if the National "Cataloging in Source" Project were not well underway, if the American Historical Association's Guide to Photo-copied Historical Materials in the United States and Canada were not nearing publication, and if the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections covering some 27,000 different collections had not been gotten underway the other day, I believe I'd be working on some one or more of those jobs. As it happened, I did get a lick in at most of them at one time or another during the past three decades. There is one job that needs to be done badly and that is the completion of the Check-List of Early

Louisiana Imprints, and I understand that one of the librarians at Tulane has undertaken that task. In other words you find me talking here as an archivist and a records consultant, not by free choice, but by the workings of circumstance. Archival neglect in this State has made me one.

What has survived in the State in the way of archival materials, after subjection to human carelessness, ignorance and neglect, floods, high humidity, vermin, fire, and war, is shockingly small indeed. Vast segments of our record as a State have been gouged out of series after series of records. The manner in which some of what should be the most cherished remnants of our cultural heritage are currently cared for and housed is so bad as to be literally unbelievable in this day and time. I point no finger at individual, group or system. The problem was outlined, and the remedy urged, in the Louisiana Archives Survey Report No 2, Findings and Recommendations, published and widely distributed in May, 1956. Rather detailed description of the materials involved will be found on pages 20-21 of that Report. Certainly a state which can get excited enough to build \$10,000,000 worth of library buildings should have the intellectual and cultural interest to preserve the extant records of its colonial and territorial periods. That library money does give me a degree of restrained faith and hope for the future!

The critical condition of a considerable body of the State's Colonial and Territorial records can be remedied through cleaning of each sheet, de-acidifying it, and then laminating it to protect it indefinitely against most forms of attack on paper. It will cost \$30,000 for the equipment, take a year for delivery, and about \$15,000 annually for materials and skilled operators of the equipment, once it is delivered. Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee have such equipment. Louisiana, with much more serious records preservation problems, has about as much chance of getting it next year as the proverbial snowball has of surviving in this climate during the months the Legislature meets.

There should be little reason to repeat at any length, before this group, most of whom heard the Honorable Wade O. Martin, Jr. last year, the history of the movement which resulted in the establishment of the State Archives and Records Commission in Louisiana. However, to put some of my remarks in their appropriate setting, I ask that you bear with me when some essential repetition is called for.

Some of you will recall that in 1936, there was established the LSU Department of Archives under the leadership of Dr. Edwin A. Davis. Virgil Lee Bedsole, now Head of the Department, and I had been Dr. Davis' teaching assistants (in a properly dispensed with course designated History II) during 1934-1935. The legislation authorizing that Department had permissive clauses relating to the deposit of non-current public records with the Department.

For several years it was my good fortune to be afforded the opportunity to travel about this State and parts of Mississippi with Dr. Davis in the interest of increasing the collections.

Meanwhile, the National Archives was being opened, and a chance remark by one Harry Hopkins set off a whole chain of events, some of which are pertinent to this discussion.

One day in Washington Harry Hopkins, then concerned with shifting from a made-work, leaf-raking, boondoggling relief program to a works program resulting in the use of the unemployed in useful public work, had conversation with a latter day conservative, then Roosevelt Brain Truster, Professor Raymond Moley. Hopkins expressed concern for the unemployed, "white collar" worker, since his way of life had been a bit different than that of a manual laborer, and because his needs were oft-times greater. Too, the Nation was losing that white collar worker's skills when he was put to manual labor. Just as an idea to play around with, Hopkins went on to say that in his perambulations about Washington, he had noticed untold areas in public buildings filled with records, some of them going back to the early days of the Republic. Couldn't some of these unemployed white collar folk be usefully employed in cleaning out the "Augean Stables of the Law?" Apparently Moley gave the idea serious thought for he called in an out-of-work friend and colleague (recently fired from the Princeton faculty by President Dodd), Luther H. Evans, a native of Texas. Professor Moley repeated Hopkins "housecleaners for the government" talk to Evans, who immediately proceeded to draft a nationwide survey of federal archives project. The idea was bought, the funds provided, and the project was set up in a matter of weeks under the auspices of the fledgling National Archives.

Then Dr. Evans, after having gotten his teeth into one project, started planning another. The result was the nation-wide Historical Records Survey, encompassing state, county, municipal, church and business records and archives, manuscript collections, newspapers, historical paintings and portraiture, early American imprints, etc.

Dr. Davis kept fully abreast of these developments and in the winter of 1936-1937, he assisted me in going after the director's job for the project in Louisiana. On March 10, 1937, I assumed the position of Director of the Louisiana Historical Survey. The staff totaled 20. Before the project closed out early in the War years, employment reached as high as 400, with people working in every parish except Cameron.

The 87 different publications produced by the Louisiana Historical Records Survey are listed in numerous places and need no summarization here. One little-known, and useful item which was published in less than fifty copies should have particular interest to this Institute. It is the title-line inventory of the parish records. Admittedly incomplete, it answers alot of questions that cannot be answered from the limited number of published parish inventories. Mr. Bedsole and I both have copies available for perusal.

Another of the Louisiana HRS publications warrants a note for its contribution to the archives and records movement. This is the St. Charles Parish Inventory, No. 45. When I became a part of the Survey in March, 1937, the form of descriptive entry for an archival or record series had been determined by the Washington Office. What hadn't been realized fully was

the necessity, in describing a records series, of knowing how a record came into being, and why it changed in form or content from time to time, and sometimes, why it stopped altogether. My own previous research in parish and county records, and particularly in the session laws of the Territorial Council of Orleans and of the State through 1861, was a factor in the developments which followed. I cast about for a parish (a) near enough to New Orleans for economic checking purposes (b) with a good inventory worker or two (c) with a relatively small body of records which (d) began in the colonial period, and particularly went back into the French colonial period. St. Charles seemed to fill the bill. An almost immediate start was made in batting out the administrative histories which were designed to explain how the records came to be for the periods in which we found them. The St. Charles Inventory was published in late November, 1937. That inventory with its legally documented administrative histories of each office caused some consternation in the Washington Office of the Survey, and eventually resulted in setting the inventory pattern for almost all of the States except for that of North Carolina.

Involved eventually was a systematic searching of (a) the succeeding state constitutions (b) the session laws (c) the extant and adopted Revised Statutes (d) the various codes (e) the Attorney General's Opinions (f) judicial decisions and obiter dicta at the various judicial levels (g) the minutes and ordinances and resolutions and rules and regulations of governing bodies, boards and commissions and (h) Executive orders, etc.

All this, made possible a better, a fuller, a more comprehensive and a more comprehensible approach to how a records series came to be created, grew, changed, was cut off, or whatever.

This story is related now, simply to assist in answering the question most often put to me by thinking people. That question is: "Just how do you go about evaluating a record or a record series? Just what makes you so sure you're not safer to save everything? Where do you get the courage to destroy?" I will come back to that question or series of them later. Just now, all that need be done is to note that serious thought and much research has been given this problem over a long period of time. In general, the concepts presented by T. R. Schellenberg in his "Appraisal of Modern Records" are adhered to. Let us get on with other aspects of the story.

A major lesson, archives and records-wise, learned during the war years was learned by the Military. All branches came to the conclusion that too many paper records were being created, and in their creation, use, and keeping, too much labor was being employed, too much equipment, and much too much space, not to mention the cost. In fact, the paper avalanche was hindering the war effort. Drastic solutions were called for and drastic solutions were found. The records administrator was born, and a new look, starting with 'birth control' and ending with the euthanasia of large bodies of inconsequential paper was put into effect. Many a Federal bureaucrat found it hard to believe that Commanding Generals refused to read anything that could not be expressed in writing on one page, until they found it to be a fact from personal experience. The Records Administrators came out of the Services declaring that the save-almost-everything approach of many archivists of the late 1930s was all wrong, and they argued for elimination of the useless at the earliest possible time on a scheduled basis, the

storage of little-used materials in low-cost cartons and warehouse space, and insofar as possible, the identification of eventual archival materials at the time of their creation.

Military experience and a couple of Hoover Commission Reports later, Congress made the National Archives, also "and Records Service" and a nation-wide system of records storage centers came into being. A branch of such a center covers the fifth floor of the Customhouse in New Orleans today.

Meanwhile, in Louisiana, Dr. Davis had enlisted the support of Secretary of State Wade O. Martin, Jr., to get modern archives and records administration legislation on the statute books.

Finally, after numerous abortive starts, the Legislature, as you know, voted \$20,000 in 1954 to the Secretary of State for the conduct of a Survey, and for the purpose of making findings and recommendations.

As you know, I did the Survey and drafted the reports in consultation with Dr. Davis and Mr. Martin, as well as with numerous other technically and professionally experienced people throughout the country. The Survey, with its administrative histories runs to some 520 pages, the findings and recommendations run to 21 pages. These two reports, along with the legislation which grew out of them in 1956, constitute Louisiana's Archives and records program on paper.

In summary: we found in 1956 that the Legislature had provided sound general legislation covering: 1) a definition of public records (R.E. 44:1); 2) a six year retention period for most records not otherwise specifically provided for (R.S. 44:36); 3) photoduplication and microfilming authority (R.S. 44:39); and 4) access to public records by the citizenry (R.S. 44:31-35).

Starting from this legislation already on the statute books, draft legislation was presented to the Legislature in 1956 which provided for three things. The first of these was a State Archives and Records Commission, the second, an operating arm of the Commission to carry out the program contemplated, in the form of a Director, and third, the bill provided for filling the gap in the State's general legislation with regard to the general responsibility of agency heads and governing boards to maintain appropriate archival documentation of the activities of their agencies.

The first of these, the State Archives and Records Commission, was to consist of the Attorney General, the Auditor (now Comptroller) and the Secretary of State. The Commission was given authority to make and promulgate rules and regulations "not inconsistent with law," establishing procedures for compiling and submitting to the Commission, lists and schedules of public records proposed for disposal, procedures for the disposal of public records, standards for the reproduction of public records by photographic or microphotographic process and rules governing the transfer of records from one agency to another.

The second aspect of the bill provided that the Commission was to appoint a Director, and "All powers, duties and functions of the Commission

under Act No. 337 of 1956 or any other records law are to be exercised by the Director upon the recommendation and approval of the Commission." The main responsibility and authority of the Director is contained in Section 413 of Title 44 of the bill as finally passed. This provision reads in pertinent part: "The Director . . . is authorized to establish an interim records center or centers for the storage, processing, and servicing of records of State and local governmental agencies pending their deposit in the State Archives and Records Center or their disposition in some other manner authorized by law; and to establish, maintain and operate centralized microfilming, photostating, indexing, decontamination and lamination and any other records repair and rehabilitation services for State and local agencies."

And finally, the bill spelled out general requirements placed on agency heads and boards for the retention of "records containing adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures and essential transactions of the agency."

While this authorizing language was passed in 1956, the accompanying appropriation bill was vetoed. The promise implied in the veto message of the Governor was kept some twenty months later. At that time, Honorable William J. Dodd appeared before the Board of Liquidation of the State Debt with a request for \$6,500 for the Commission to initiate a program to relieve serious records crowding his office.

Meanwhile, the Governor's Budget Group, and the late Commissioner of Administration, Harvey J. Rester, had acted on the Commission's request for the Fiscal Year 1958-1959, and the Legislature and the Governor in the Summer of 1958 approved the initial annual appropriation of \$36,640, approximately a third of which was for equipment.

Up till now, the Commission has held four formal meetings. These have been held in a really sincere effort to set appropriate policies, proper and long lasting precedents. At the first meeting held on February 20, 1957, the Commission approved 1) a budget proposal (not acted upon by the Legislature in 1957) 2) a policy statement to the effect that the Commission would concentrate its major activities during the initial year of operation in the Capital Area with a view to effecting the legal destruction of that body of records which would yield the immediate release of State office space and equipment. The Commission agreed to initiate microfilming programs where economically suitable to this objective, and to maintain an office for advisory service to State and local officials with regard to archives and records administration. While there have been a few minor changes in the wording since that date, these have been the basic policies adhered to since funds became available in March, 1958.

With my appointment as a paid director, the Commission instructed me to 1) prepare the draft of the rules and regulations called for by the law, and 2) to propose a system of work priorities within the frame work of the already adopted policy. It was further determined by the Commission that as a matter of general policy for the time being, the activities of the staff should be confined to advisory and consultant, rather than operational services, until such time as the Archives and Records Building

was made available. What this amounts to is that when called upon, the Commission Staff will assist an agency or office in determining what records series exist, which can be eliminated, and when, and advise on methods and specifications when microfilm or other copying processes can be used economically. The Commission Staff will not, for the time being, do the actual work with records or microfilm. The objective is to train one, or a group, in each agency, to see that useless records of an agency are destroyed as soon as administratively feasible and legally possible; that essential records are retained as long as necessary; that archival materials are held for eventual transfer to an Archives and Records Building.

The basic plan and program contained in Report No. 2, Findings and Recommendations contemplates: a) destruction of accumulations of useless public records and other materials such as working papers as a one-time thing; then b) scheduling their destruction at convenient intervals in the future in compliance with the 6 year, or other destruction laws; c) the transfer of little-used materials which must be kept either under law, or for administrative reasons, to lower-cost containers in lower-cost space such as the proposed Records Center, and d) the identification and transfer, from time to time, of truly archival materials to a central archival establishment, once a building becomes available.

On November 12, 1958, the Commission approved the four Preliminary Rules and Regulations. These rules provide 1) a form and procedure for an agency of the State or its subdivisions to propose for destruction now or in the future specific public records series, and under this procedure the agency head will receive the legal and professional backing of the Commission; 2) the second rule provides methods for disposition of records; 3) the third provides certain essential specifications when photographic or other related processes are used in public records work, and aims at assuring the permanency of such records; and 4) this fourth rule provides for keeping present inventories current whenever materials are transferred from one agency to another.

The rules and regulations are preliminary because the Commission wants the views of interested agencies, because there is necessarily an experimental period to be lived through, and because the Commission has no particular interest in policing. Too, state-wide implementation of the program with present staff would be an impossibility.

It should be noted that these forms, procedures and standards are based in major part upon the 23 years of experience of the National Archives and Records Service.

It should be obvious from all this, that steps taken are taken only after the most careful consideration--that this is not the whole program envisioned by the recommendations in Report No. 2, or in the Authorizing Act of 1956, but, it is very definitely a matter of taking on first things first, with the funds at hand.

Since the 1956 veto of the appropriation measure for the Commission, the present Director has served as a Records Consultant successively,

to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and the State Auditor (now Comptroller). In each of these posts, an attempt was made to set and establish certain patterns of continued operation, to provide examples for others. For example: The Corporation and other records series in the office of the Secretary of State have been filmed over the recent years, and a sample Guide to the original documents filed, the paper recording of them, and the microfilm recording of them, was prepared and published. The great bulk of the records of this office are now on microfilm. In fact, things are filmed right down through June, 1958. Supplementary filming is done and supplementary guides are prepared annually, during the summer months. It is now quite feasible to place beside each worker in the office dealing with such records, a Reader-Printer which will permit viewing of the record on the film and the preparation of a blown up copy of any page in six seconds at a materials cost of 8 cents per page. The bulk of the now microfilmed records of this office could be placed in low-cost storage elsewhere than in the Capitol. Only the current year's filings need be kept in the office hereafter.

In the Attorney General's Office, the problems were a bit different. A work flow study was completed, and a number of modifications in office practice were effected to promote greater efficiency, but the more interesting study involved elimination of some seven tons of records material. The bulk of the records of this office find deposit in the records rooms of the various courts. Opinions are published biennially. Out of some 200 file drawers of material in the office, it was found that only 40 had to be kept for legal reasons, so these forty were filmed on 99 rolls of microfilm. As a matter of fact, there have only been three requests for material on those 99 rolls in six months. Some 50 four-drawer file cabinets were released, as well as much floor space, and of course, with the materials out of the way, no file clerk could waste time searching fruitlessly through them over and over again. A guide to the microfilmed records of this office is in process of publication at the moment.

In the Comptroller's office, still another problem was faced. Here, basic public records of a fiscal character, dating back to the 1860's had filled up all available space, and something drastic had to be done. Few days pass during the year that these materials are not consulted for some very elusive detail involving property titles, most often oil lands. A plan for filming was devised, estimates were prepared, funds were obtained from the Board of Liquidation of the State Debt, a first class flat bed camera was acquired, and another rented and in April, 1958 the filming started. Eventually, some \$25,000 will be spent to reduce space requirements in a ratio of almost 99:1, and over 4,000 square feet of potential office space in the Capitol will be released. This space has been conservatively estimated to be worth some \$150,000.

Now this business of microfilming public records has been underway in this country for well over a quarter of a century. The standards for raw film and processing adopted by the Commission are those found to be most suitable by the Federal Government. I should voice a word of caution, however---the economics and the art of microfilming limit its use to a

relatively small portion of the total of some 650,000 cubic feet of records in this State. I, nor the Commission, advocate its promiscuous use.

One of the problems that has long plagued the advocates of microfilm has been the lack of a really economic and satisfactory device for bringing a microfilm frame back to the size of the original material filmed. There has long been the completely adequate, slow and costly photographic enlarger process. Then too, the Photostatic Camera has an enlarger attachment which is some bit less costly to operate, and which, when the print is properly developed is fully adequate for public records purposes (The Commission owns such a device). Shortly after the budget had been prepared for the current fiscal year, there was announced a new Reader-Printer developed by the Scotch Tape People. They probably did it in contrition for the horrible things their Scotch Tape has done to torn public records! For a capital outlay of about \$800, we were able to obtain what is a really fine microfilm reader, which will in 6-10 seconds provide an 8½" x 11" blow-up of a microfilm frame at a materials cost of about 8 cents per page. The Commission obtained one of the first of these machines available on the market in this area.

The Commission now has the nucleus of a centralized Microfilm Laboratory, with a few exceptions. It owns, or has available, a 16 mm Reliant Microfilmer with all the trimmings; a 16 mm automatic Film-a-Record Camera; a Griscombe 35 mm flat-bed camera; a Recordak Model D flat-bed camera; and a Recordak Model C, which is just about as large a camera as any public record in Louisiana will require. The Commission owns or has available four different types of microfilm readers, and two film inspection devices. In time, the volume of work may well warrant the acquisition of various film processors, various types of punch card film insert equipment, and Zerography equipment. As of now, the Commission has one piece of equipment for most any roll film camera job presently called for by public records work in Louisiana.

Now then, as to the priorities, I've indicated that the Baton Rouge area comes first, in the Commission's thinking, aside from a few odd jobs involving incompleted tasks in the offices of the three Commissioners. First priority goes to assistance to the Department of Highways, due to move into its new building about July 1, 1959; second, to the transfer and/or destruction of the records of some six state agencies located in the Quonset Huts back of the Capitol Annex and in the way of the Front Street Thruway Project, contracts for which will be let in February. I could very well go down the list further, but the details could be boring and in any circumstances, these first two priorities will keep us pretty well occupied during most of the remainder of this fiscal year.

One of the really interesting things in the air is the possibility that an evacuated Department of Highways Building, such as Old Peabody Hall might be assigned to the Commission as an interim State Archives and Records Center. My Building recommendations as contained in Report No. 2 still stand. In that report it was stated: "The idea of a marble building to house records does not enter into our thinking . . . We would propose a simple warehouse type structure."

But this "Prologue" has been a long one. I, for one, would not kick that gift horse in the face.

During the past four years, we have been systematically going through the Revised Statutes of 1950 as amended, with a view to identifying every bit of legislation calling for the creation, retention, use, filing, deposit, copying and every other reference to public records. There are, I can now tell you, literally thousands of such items in the Statutes. Many are, of course, in conflict, some out of date. This fact was remarked upon in Report No. 2 in the following words: "the complexity of the special legislation relating to records creation, keeping, etc., running through the Revised Statutes of 1950 as amended, is so great that it is definitely worthwhile to give continuing study to these problems in the best professional sense." This, I note here to make clear that we are 1) moving in the direction of clearing out much of the unnecessary legal verbiage, eventually, 2) we are aware of these many detailed legal requirements and will not irresponsibly recommend the elimination of legally required or archivally significant records, and 3) this type of activity is no place of sinecure, no haven for the intellectually lazy.

The commission is anxious to be of help and service to every serious student in those disciplines using archival and other records materials. It will be a long time before such services can compare with many of the other States in the South, with long-established archival and historical institutions. We cannot now do any specific research for individuals, although the records controls prepared, and to be prepared, will assist many. However, we are in a position to answer by mail, by telephone and in person, a multitude of questions concerning whether a given record exists, where it is, what aids there are to its use, what in general it contains, whether it is worth consulting, whether it simply doesn't exist, and oftentimes, why it doesn't exist.

Our primary job at the moment appears to be to convince Legislators, administrators, and on occasion, the lowliest file clerk, that we can be of assistance, make life easier, work simpler, less costly, more efficient provide useable space, re-useable equipment in such quantity, and with such dollar savings that the savings made will more than pay for a balanced archival, records administration, historical, genealogical research establishment. Your understanding and support will be most sincerely appreciated by the members of the Commission, and your speaker.

COLONIAL RECORDS IN LOUISIANA

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sanders
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

This is not by any means meant to be a complete outline of colonial records in the State, but merely a guide. Records embracing the colonial period of Louisiana history are far from complete. However, they are not as incomplete as a first glance might indicate.

Parish Courthouse Records. The first source of colonial records is the obvious: parish courthouses. Many of the State's parishes have records extending back to the colonial days. The June, 1957, issue of the Genealogical Register (Vol. IV, No. 3), P. 17, contains a "Parish Records Survey" indicating which parishes do contain colonial records. Briefly, these are:

Ascension (parish seat, Donaldsonville) - Records go back to 1766
Assumption (Napoleonville) - 1781
Avoyelles (Marksville) - 1785
East Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge) - 1782 (West Florida records)
Iberville (Plaquemine) - 1770
Lafayette (Lafayette) - 1799
Lafourche (Thibodaux) - 1796
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) - 1716
Orleans (New Orleans) - 1717
Ouachita (Monroe) - 1785
Plaquemines (Pointe-a-la-Hache) - 1792
Pointe Coupee (New Roads) - 1762
St. Bernard (Chalmette) - 1788
St. Charles (Hahnville) - 1740
St. James (Convent) - 1782
St. John the Baptist (Edgard) - 1753
St. Landry (Opelousas) - 1765
St. Martin (St. Martinville) - 1760
West Feliciana (St. Francisville) - 1787

(This material is from Louisiana Archives Survey Report No. 1 - 1956 - compiled by John C. L. Andreassen in consultation with Dr. Edwin A. Davis, pp. 290-389.)

So, it is obvious that we are fortunate in having records which do go back so far. They are not by any means complete. Fires and loss by other means have taken their toll. Still, it is remarkable that there have not been more fires; and when the tragic loss of Virginia records during the Civil War is considered, remembering that most of South Louisiana was occupied by Federal troops between 1862 and 1865, the status of our old records is even more remarkable. It is interesting to note that the oldest records in the State are not where one would think they might be - New Orleans - but Natchitoches. Natchitoches is the oldest city in Louisiana, having been settled in 1712, I believe, some five years prior to the

Crescent City; and its records date back to 1716, one year prior to New Orleans'.

The early political units of the State were such that almost all sections can still be traced back to an early date. I am interested in St. Mary Parish, for instance, since my people settled there around the time of the Louisiana Purchase (1803). St. Mary Parish was not created until 1811, so it has no colonial records. But it was carved from St. Martin Parish, and when I was checking my families to learn how early they had been in Louisiana I went to St. Martinville, the parish seat of St. Martin Parish. These records extend back to 1760, and I was able to pinpoint my families there. Here's a tip to early Louisiana ancestor seekers: brush up on your French if you want to read about what your ancestors were doing. Hardly any of these old records are translated - a good project for DAR and other patriotic societies.

The Louisiana Historical Quarterly is another source of colonial records, for many of these records have been published from time to time in the periodical.

Superior Council Records. Under the French regime a "Superior Council" held forth in New Orleans as an administrative aid to the governor. This was in no wise a democratic organization, such as we are familiar with today. But it did have a judicial function and its records have been published in the Quarterly almost in full, between 1918 and 1943. The first entry in this series was under date of October 21, 1723; this was a petition tendered and approved concerning M. Defontaine and the LeBlanc grant (Vol. I, p. 224). The last entry in this series was under date of October 31, 1763, and concerned the petition of Sieur Louis Brazier regarding the tutorship of the minor children of the late Sieur Renaud called St. Laurent (Vol. XXVI, p. 254).

Spanish Judicial Records. Spanish judicial records of Louisiana were also published in the Quarterly between 1923 and 1948. The first entry in this series was under date of September 10, 1769, and concerned the oath of allegiance taken by the inhabitants of Pointe Coupee (Vol. VI, p. 145). The last entry in this series was under date of August 9, 1785, and concerned the proceedings brought by Juan Saladie (Pollet) against the Succession of Joseph Margues (Vol. XXXI, p. 262). An enormous amount of genealogical information is available in these articles, but they are unindexed--another project for the Society or other public spirited organization.

Libraries. The Louisiana Department of the New Orleans Public Library and the Louisiana State Museum Library, also in New Orleans, both house valuable colonial records.

Cabildo Records. During the Spanish regime, the French "Superior Council" has its counterpart in the "Cabildo," which had similar judicial functions. The Louisiana Department of the New Orleans Public Library has a complete set of the Records and Deliberations of the Cabildo, 1769-1802, in ten volumes. The originals of the Cabildo records were

translated from the Spanish by Adolph Baum and Arthur C. Tronsco under the sponsorship of the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration of Louisiana in 1934. These are not indexed.

Other Spanish Records. A microfilm copy of the Louisiana Sons of the American Revolution Spanish Records, compiled by C. Robert Churchill, is also in the Louisiana Department of the New Orleans Public Library. Among other things, this microfilm copy contains a list of the men who fought under General Don Bernardo de Galvez in the Spanish-English War, 1779-1783 (American Revolution), as well as other records from the Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain. A sampling of the general index to this work includes the following items:

- Acadians, Roster of Militia (Acadian Coast)
- Alemanes, Costa de, Roster of Militia (German Coast)
- Baton Rouge, the taking of
- Battles of Ft. Buke, Baton Rouge, and Manchac (1779) (Galvez's letter describing)

French Census Records. The Louisiana State Museum Library has a manuscript entitled Recensements, 1706-41 (French Mss., Mississippi Valley, 1679-1769). They are census records taken by the French government. Some of these early French census records have also been published in the Louisiana Historical Quarterly (Vol. XIII, p. 205).

American State Papers. Another important primary source for colonial research in Louisiana is the series of federal government publications called the American State Papers. The Genealogical Register of June, 1955 (Vol. II, No. 3) discussed this series in its lead article.

In 1832 Congress began publishing governmental legislative and executive documents. These documents were divided into ten classes, as follows: Foreign Affairs, Indian Affairs, Finance, Commerce and Navigation, Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, Post Office Department, Public Lands, Claims, and Miscellaneous. The eight volumes of Class 3 (Public Lands) are of prime interest to genealogists. They cover the disposition of claims to public land between 1789 and 1837. Volume I, covering the year 1809, shows the disposition of much of the land that was a part of the Louisiana Purchase. Claimants in the District of Kaskaskia, Michigan Territory, Mississippi Territory and the Vincennes District are listed alphabetically as units in the index to Volume I. There are over 500 names shown in the Michigan Territory index, about 2,000 in the Mississippi Territory, and over 1,000 in the District of Vincennes. There are also some lists of refugees from Nova Scotia in this volume.

Volume II covers land claims between 1809 and 1815. It has about 70 pages of "Louisiana Land Claims," containing an estimated 10,000 claims. These are not listed as a unit in the index, but the volume itself is completely indexed. These lists are important to genealogists seeking information on early settlers in Louisiana because they are an index to those in the western part of the State who had Spanish Land Grants. Apparently the records for the eastern section of the State have been lost.

There are other various miscellaneous sources. The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society has, for example, a copy of the 1791 Spanish Census of New Orleans and a photostatic copy of the Spanish Census of 1767 for Pointe Coupee.

It is to be hoped that other records pertaining to Louisiana's romantic colonial period will be obtained in order to complete the records as nearly as possible.

FEDERAL, PARISH AND MUNICIPAL RECORDS
FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

E. Russ Williams, Jr.
Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society

Trying to pinpoint the most important records of the State of Louisiana in the bracket with a genealogical view in mind is very difficult. Louisiana has an abundance of history, all brought about by people, people of all countries, and from all parts of the American colonies. From 1804 to 1812 Louisiana was a Territory, a short time, in comparison to many states. This was a time that English speaking peoples flocked into the Florida Parishes, and began to settle on waiting land, and to live from the abundance thereof.

The Federal Records thereof can be classified in definite brackets. It would be impossible to give each thing that now exists in the National Archives of the United States, but this will be a small, but important group of these records:

I. The Census Records. The Federal Census was begun in Louisiana in 1810, the third for America as a whole. This Census gave only the number in a household, and heads of families. More data can be found on this in a similar paper that I gave last year. Louisiana is fortunate that all Census Reports taken by the Federal Government are intact, and available on microfilm in most Genealogical Libraries, and photostats are in the National Archives in Washington.

II. War Records. Louisiana was not in the turbulent troubles of the revolution, but did open its arms to the many who fled the war-people so referred to as Tories. This territory paid little heed to such added "titles" and welcomed all that might add to the country's population. Of course, few records can be found in Louisiana on such people, but early records do exist in many states, pointing out for what they stood, and the reason for sudden departure. The Records of War Veterans for the War of 1776, deal with a few men who moved into the Louisiana Territory in later years, and applied for a federal pension. These records are few, but you might be a Lucky One. The Pension List of 1818 (letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report of the names, rank, and line of every person placed on the pension list, first printed by Gales & Seaton in 1820, reprinted by Southern Book Company in 1955) lists only one pensioner in the State of Louisiana and this was Daniel Lowry, a private, who served in Pennsylvania. The other such list (also reprinted by Southern Book Company) is "Census of Pensioners of 1841." This list gave three pensioners, but I have only two of them: Washington Parish, John Brumfield, 93 years old (S.C.), lived with Fleming Brumfield; and John Pierce, 98 years old, lived with Augustus Pierce. This data was also given on the 1840 census.

Louisiana was important in the War of 1812. It had a very impressive battle on its soil and gave men, by the score, to fight in the battle. Muster Roles and all war records are available from the National Archives.

In many cases, these veterans lived until 1853 when an Act was passed giving bounty land and pensions to veterans of the war. If they applied, they would have many records on file in the Bounty and Pension Division. In 1858 another Act was passed giving widows of veterans of 1812 bounty land rights, so, if the veteran was deceased, his widow might have applied for land in such cases. All these records would be available from the National Archives.

The Mexican War did not go unheeded by the men of Louisiana. Muster Roles and Pension Records are also available for this period.

The Civil War was a State Problem. All original records of this war are now in Washington. Louisiana Records were printed by Booth in four volumes called "Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands." This is far from being complete, but is a most valuable record. In 1898, the pension was begun in Louisiana for Civil War Veterans and their widows. These records can be procured from the Welfare Department, Confederate Pension Division. These records contain authentic and valuable genealogical material. It had to be authenticated before pension was granted.

In reference to the more recent wars, I believe that most everyone will know what to look for in such cases.

III. The American State Papers. Transactions dealing with Federal records of lands were mentioned in these Volumes. They also contained Bounty Grants for Veterans of the Revolutionary War--many who actually became residents of Louisiana and many whose land actually fell within state limits. These Volumes cover more than Land Records, but these are the most important contained therein from the standpoint of Genealogy.

IV. Other Federal Sources. In many cases, Louisiana was given money appropriated by the various Legislative Bodies to pay off claims of various groups; for example, the French trappers lost heavily while Louisiana was still a territory and they were given the right to sue the Government for damage and merchandise loss. Money is still available, if you can prove yourself entitled to it. Other such papers to be found will be:

- a. Indian Claim Office (Persons claiming Indian Ancestry in order to take up land in the Oklahoma territory.)
- b. Post Office Records (Persons that actually at one time ran an office or was a mail carrier.)
- c. Dozens of such different departments exist, each with various and different sorts of records. Use initiative to look into them.

V. Louisiana Immigration. Louisiana let in many immigrants through the Port of New Orleans. These people had to supply family records proving their birth, nationality and various other facts. In some cases,

the ancestry went back for several generations. These records were on file for many years in the Customs House in New Orleans, but recently, all were shipped to the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

State Records

There are very few State Records that vary in any great degree from the Federal Records. I have already mentioned the Confederate Pensions as well as the Printed Confederate Soldier Records. The State has many records, but under many and most circumstances, they are of little or no genealogical value. State Records helpful to the genealogists are:

1. Poll Tax Records - Most of these can be found in the Basement of the State Capitol, dating from 1865 on. Earlier records are in the original counties.
2. State Land Records - The State of Louisiana is very fortunate in having all of the old Federal Land Records. (Most other states had them transferred to Washington, and in most cases, they have now been misplaced.) These records are now under the custody of Miss Helen Olivier in the State Land Office. These records go back to the earliest in the State's History. Most of the oldest are written in French (occasionally Spanish-English after the Louisiana Purchase). Many early Parish Clerks sent duplicates of early recorded deeds and land disputes to the Federal Office. (True for Washington Parish, now invaluable since all Parish Records were destroyed in 1854 and again in 1897.) Other records in this group will give family data that will clear up land titles, in such cases where the first claimant died before final papers were granted. It might even explain kinships between persons living near each other. Papers will even be found for many English Grants given in the Louisiana Territory by mistake by English Gov. in Mississippi Territory. Generally, in clearing papers now, it will list two or maybe three generations.
3. Vital Statistics - All birth and death records are on file from the State Registrar, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Board of Health, New Orleans, Louisiana, from the year 1914 to present.
4. Records of Appointments, Judges, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace - These can be found in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Parish and Municipal Records

Little distinction can be made of these records. Very few cities have kept separate records, for instance New Orleans, which now covers all of the Parish of Orleans, so City Records are Parish Records as well. Orleans Parish has birth records dating from 1870, and death notices from 1899. These records date back forty-four years earlier than State and Parish. They can be obtained from the State Health Office. It is advisable to have the correct date in such cases, but they will look one year on either side of a specified date on either birth or death. Parish Records can be found as follows:

1. Deeds. These records are most numerous. Every person that owned land will have at least some recorded data. Deeds might give little help, but just might uncover a generation for you that you didn't know. Deeds might be on land, slaves (in the period prior to 1865), cattle, mineral rights or household goods. Deeds of Gift are most valuable. They might be in the General Conveyance Books, or in minor instances the Parish might have a Deed of Gift Book, or they might even be recorded in the Will Books. Observe (1) the witnesses of all deeds, (2) location of land, (3) neighbors, and (4) from whom purchased.

Deeds in Louisiana did not mention the wife by name until the late 1820's, then they might only give her first name. Generally, after 1830, the woman was given more mention, in the general practice, gave her full name (maiden). On a few odd cases, you might find a missing link in a deed dealing with other members or families' records. As was a custom, land was sold from owner to owner before a transaction was recorded. If this occurred the transactions would be mentioned in the deed, but not in the heading or index. Do not underestimate the Parish Deed Books.

2. Wills. Wills were regarded as records in Louisiana from the very earliest days. It cannot be said that they would have ever been recorded. Very few actually were. This depended upon the Clerk of Court and the Parish that they were in. Always seek the Will Book, but if none exists ask for the original records. It seems that most all Parishes got around to recording wills during the "Carpet-Bag Days," so few have been lost since that time. Wills could be recorded in the Deed of Gift Books, as the Deed of Gift was recorded in the Will Book. Wills might be in the Marriage and Conveyance Book as well.

3. Successions. Upon the death of a head of the house, an estate was opened for settlement. In Louisiana it was referred to as a succession. The documents to be found in the general document would be:

- a. A Will (unless person died interstate)
- b. Petition from a person desiring to open the Succession
- c. Papers granted to Petitioner
- d. Family Meeting Papers
- e. Appointment of Appraisors
- f. Inventory
- g. Appraisment (referred to as a Tableau)

- h. Sale of all moveables
- i. Division and settlement (Missing from most all successions, probably never entered as public record)
- j. Papers closing the estate.

These papers will form the skeleton of the estate papers. Other records will be found therein, or some of the above might be amiss. It might be your luck to find most of it recorded in the Estate Books or Conveyance Books.

4. Sheriff Sale Books. These contain records of land seized and sold because of lack of tax money, or the sheriff might be selling property of an Estate. This does not mean scandal on the part of the ancestry if records on them are found therein.

5. Stock Mark Records. Look into these records. Generally family marks were similar. You can prove the relationship of some people with these leading characteristics.

6. Assessor's List. Gives list of all taxables.

7. Registrar's Records. Elections will date back as far as the elections go. Few registered voters' lists of the by-gone century can be found, but most all for the present century will be found available in the Registrar's Office. These records provided space for the name of the father, birthdate of both the voter and the father. You might be able to find and prove a link missing by them.

8. Marriage Records. These are a most valuable record in Louisiana. They date back to the earliest days of recorded Louisiana History. In the first years you might find the name of the parents of both parties, especially if the person or persons were under the age of majority, and in a few instances even when the parties were over the age of majority. If a marriage is not where you think it should be, look in all neighboring counties before giving up the search.

9. Recorded Bonds. Look into all recorded bonds. You might find family data, but often family members signed as security or witnesses.

OTHER SOURCES

Mrs. Gilbert Fletcher
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

When I contemplated the subject I was given to discuss on this program, I was like the cow in Mother Goose -- I considered, and considered very well. All that came to me at first, as I was upholstering a chair, was a conic opening for a speech which my children used to laugh over -- I guess it was in the first grade. "Ladies and gentlemen, I come before you, to stand behind you, and give you my opinion on something I know nothing about." I decided it was fitting that I should use it now: I do stand before you; I am surely always behind you in the work we are all trying to do, and the rest you will discover before I finish this harangue.

Research in Louisiana genealogy I believe to be a wellspring barely tapped. I am sure, even after our institutes and all our lists of aids, much is left to be organized for our use and for posterity.

Of course, your "other source " is yourself and your clear analysis of your individual problem.

I wish I could have made a personal survey of every library in the state, which is manifestly impossible, but I am sure with all the lists and aids you have been given, plus the list published in the Louisiana Genealogical Register and the bibliographies in the proceedings, you will have more help on that than a one-woman survey could give.

Mr. Williams mentioned law-suits at the end of his talk. Maybe I can help a little bit there as I am the newcomer and ignoramus running wild in the Law Library. I know you are supposed to use Shepard's Citator, but I just walk to the end of the line of Louisiana Reports, and use the Table of Cases, whenever provided, where one can find whether his Grandpa decided to sue or was sued, and the date. Lawyers can be terse and one always likes to know the whole story, but sometimes you may find an account which is too full!

You mention trouble in reading Spanish and French records; to cheer you on I shall merely say the books I have been working on lately have been in Greek, 16th century, but to make it easier they have it translated in the right-hand side of the page in Latin. Do not despair.

Also, do not feel that you must confine yourself in any way to what are called by librarians "genealogy books". I think we have be-

come ham-strung by a lot of out-dated, poor indexed books which we pore over when there are really fresh fields to work in.

I am not disparaging clues, which we all know are tremendous spurs to further work, but, for goodness sake don't think everything is in Harlee's Kinfolks, and Swem's Index. We have just started to fight and these are ancient bastions!

Mr. Dewey tried to divide all knowledge into ten classifications and he made a good beginning, but he couldn't do it. Affairs are so complex now, I get notes from the Library of Congress indicating to me that I'd better change this or simplify that; I think they are beginning to feel shaky and worried. I could see that coming when I used to review Science Fiction for the students in eighth grade.

Now, perhaps some of you didn't have Library Science in eighth grade. I didn't. A library can be confusing to us. Blessed are ye, among you, if you have a library with open stacks.

Begin at the beginning, where it says "Oh-sixteen" and wander up and down the aisles. "Oh" is the beginning of all knowledge, says Mr. Dewey, and that's where we are, alright. There I found bibliographies of all kinds, catalogs of all kinds of libraries and, oh joy! -- the index to the Public Records of England and to Parish Registers, too. Then comes 200. Religious histories and transactions come within this category. Was Grandpa a good Baptist in a certain town? Was he a Methodist minister?

Just tell the librarian you are looking for religious books, not for genealogy. Sneak in! Maybe nobody will divine your nefarious purpose.

The librarian caught me as I was prowling around for books to tell you about and she said "Elinor, don't you tell them we have a thing!"

We cannot discuss all classifications, but one I think all important is in the 300's: migrations. That is the category of social and economic problems, but don't bat an eye and you may find a name on a passenger list. Pretend you are an avid student of colonial statistics. Well, you are! In the 914's, etc. you will find description and travel books and you may come across the very town you have been trying to locate and a lovely word picture of it. Keep at it! If you have not an open stack library, take out the catalog tray with the subject you are working on, such as Louisiana (Period! that's for official) Parishes, and go through every card on that subject, writing down on your index cards which books will help in any way. Cover your own library that way and any others you may be able to get to. Check all local histories carefully.

I should like as a project sometime for our state, a regional catalog for genealogists; for each one of us to send in a duplicate card to show what is available in each area from all sources. It would clarify our resources which are many but hodge-podge. What a wonderful help a name index would be, as we have in the New Orleans Public Library for the Newspapers.

And now -- think back to your first reading of Ivanhoe. Do you remember Ivanhoe said to Wamba the Fool, in effect, "Now go on into that castle, where it is dangerous and dark; wrap your disguise around you and if you get in a tight place, just say Pax vobiscum, it'll get you out of anything." So, I say to you:

Pax vobiscum!

NEWSPAPERS AS A GENEALOGICAL SOURCE

Charles E. East
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

Those who take newspapers seriously have been reminded by one of our humorists that today's papers will be used to wrap tomorrow's fish in. That may be true. But today's newspapers are also tomorrow's history. Just as we look at the papers of seventy-five and a hundred years ago with an amused smile at the style of writing and the quaint phrasing of the ads, so our grandchildren and great-grandchildren seventy-five or a hundred years from now will view what we have taken for granted.

The value of the newspaper to the historian can readily be understood. What were things like in Baton Rouge in 1850? In New Orleans in 1830? What were the public questions of the day? What merchandise were the stores offering, and at what price? Indeed, it is possible, from a study of a particular file of newspapers over a particular period of time, to reconstruct almost what the community was like.

Newspapers can also be of help to the genealogist. Too often, however, in the search for family history, they are overlooked -- or looked over and then put away. For one thing, it is generally more time-consuming to use newspaper files than, say, to check conveyance or probate indexes at the parish courthouse, or to run a microfilm copy of census reports. For another, the information gleaned from newspapers is likely to be supplementary in nature. But there are times when newspapers can supply answers to questions that otherwise would go unanswered. Bits and pieces of information, perhaps, but valuable ones. And there are times when newspapers can, unexpectedly, turn up gold mines of material. Many local histories, and collections of biographical pieces, originally appeared in the columns of newspapers. A great many early editors seem to have been genealogists at heart.

Some papers at one time or another ran genealogical columns. Others ran personal reminiscences or sketches on the pioneers. For example, the Patriot-Democrat, published in Clinton, ran a series of articles written by Henry Skipwith which were later collected together and printed in book form in 1892 as East Feliciana, Louisiana, Past and Present. Skipwith successively describes each ward of the parish, outlines its history, and makes rather detailed mention of some of the families. It is a first-rate source on that particular locality.

In recent years, one of our own members, of one of the members of this panel, Nick Murray, undertook to publish in his weekly newspapers a column on family history. Imagine the surprise and pleasure of some genealogist a hundred years from now who runs into these columns on microfilm.

The most obvious place to look for genealogical material in the newspapers, of course, is in the marriage and death notices. Usually, these were published together under standing headlines, and in the case of weekly papers, grouped day by day for the week. Sometimes, however, they were published separately and scattered throughout the paper.

The date, place and time of death was given, and very often the cause, together with a mention of the deceased's family. Some death notices also noted where the deceased was born, when he came to the community and other pertinent facts concerning his life.

Deaths of prominent persons, or older members of the community, were sometimes given more than the usual play. It is not uncommon, for example, to see a lengthy obituary of some Revolutionary soldier in the columns of papers prior to 1850, with an account of his service in the War somewhere woven into the flowery eulogy.

Marriage notices listed the bride and groom, sometimes identified their parents, noted when the ceremony was performed and by whom. Occasionally, there are footnotes to the wedding, such as a mention of where the couple went on their honeymoon.

The problem in scanning death and marriage notices, of course, is that it is necessary to have some idea of when the death or marriage occurred in order to make practical use of the files. To scan all the deaths and marriages over a five or ten year period, even in the case of weekly newspapers, would be a rather ambitious undertaking, though it can be done.

But even assuming the date of death or marriage is known, the newspaper notice often supplies other information which was not.

There are other places in the newspaper where material of a genealogical nature may be found. There are the news columns. Today it would be difficult to check the news columns because of the great amount of space given to local happenings. In early papers, however, particularly in the smaller communities, there were relatively few local items. These were usually run under a standing headline, such as Local Notes, or News of the Town, in a standing position on the page. In these columns the editor commented on local people and events. "Jonathan Dunn has brought in the first boll of cotton of the season." "Major John Scott is to be congratulated on the arrival of a son, his second." "A fire damaged the residence and out-buildings of Louis Frey." These are the sort of items which appeared, often in more detail. It takes time to check

them, but it is interesting and sometimes proves rewarding.

Still another newspaper feature which can be of help to the genealogist is the list of letters at the local post office. In the early days the post office used the news columns as a means of notifying residents that mail was being held for them. These lists were usually run alphabetically, and occasionally they were even broken down into males and females.

The value of the letters list is obviously limited, but it can be helpful in placing a particular family in a locality.

The advertising columns can sometimes be as useful as the news columns to the genealogist. The legal advertising, of course, duplicates material which can be found in the county or parish courthouse, such as probate proceedings; but in the case of a county or parish where the court records are missing, can be very valuable. It is also possible to pick up clues in some of the other ads. Was your grandfather a merchant? His ad is likely to tell when he founded the business, who he was in partnership with. Was he a photographer? His ad might describe his studio, or give an account of his experience. If he was in any business or profession, the chances are that he advertised in the paper, and a look at one of his ads should at least be interesting.

But newspapers are most helpful when they deliberately set out to write local history. I've already mentioned Henry Skipwith's sketches of the East Feliciana pioneers which were later published in book form. Most papers at one time or another published pieces of this nature. Sometimes they were published on special occasions: an anniversary of the founding of a town, an anniversary of some patriotic event, or even an anniversary of the newspaper itself.

One of the most fascinating series of articles that I've run across was published in The Tri-Weekly Advocate here in Baton Rouge in the years just after the War Between the States. The paper suspended publication for three years while the town was occupied by federal troops, but in 1865 resumed publication. To bring its readers up to date on what had happened to the town and the townspeople over the previous three-year period, the paper published a series of articles headed ALL AROUND TOWN. The writer, identified only as Rambler, took each section of the town, described the changes the war had wrought in it, took some of the people who lived in that section, told which had died, which had served in the war, and where. The value of such a series is obvious.

But who knows that it exists? It is impossible to say what stores of information lie hidden in the columns of newspapers, waiting for some historian to run across them. Unfortunately, though they are found and used by some, they are not always passed along for the use of others.

Many libraries and historical societies have made an effort to remedy this. The most noteworthy work in that direction has been the indexing of marriage and death notices. The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society has done work along this line, some of which has been published in the columns of The Register. The Register has run items from one of the Baton Rouge papers, from a New Orleans paper, from one of the St. Francisville papers, and from one or two others. But much more remains to be done.

Think how valuable a card index file of Louisiana death and marriage notices would be, say, covering completely the files of newspapers published prior to 1850. I suggest that this would be a worthwhile project for the society to undertake, perhaps dividing the work by chapters throughout the state.

Equally as valuable would be an index of historical material in early Louisiana newspapers. When you run across an article of historical significance, make a note of the paper, the issue and the page, and mail it off to our curator for the files.

Where are these early newspapers to be found? Our larger libraries throughout the state have newspaper files, of course. The LSU Library has an extensive collection, much of which is on microfilm. Other files are privately owned, some by descendants of the men who published them, some by the publishers of the papers which succeeded older papers.

Many of our older newspapers have been completely lost to us. But microfilm will do much to insure that today's newspapers will be around for the generations of tomorrow.

Those who would like to try their hand at checking newspaper files might find these suggestions helpful:

1. Familiarize yourself with what newspaper files are available to you. If you live here in Baton Rouge, pay a visit to the Microfilm Department of the LSU Library and see what papers are there. If you live in New Orleans, check the Howard Tilton Library and so on.

2. Find the newspaper or newspapers which fit your purpose, from the standpoint of the locality and the time. If there were several papers being published at a given period you're interested in, check all of them.

3. Once you have a particular paper before you, acquaint yourself with its layout. You'll discover that generally the ads are on a certain pages, the news columns are in certain standing positions, and the death and marriage notices. Usually, for instance, the front page of the paper prior to 1850 was completely

devoted to ads. Local news ran on Page 2 or 3. Learn the layout and you'll save yourself time.

4. Use what information you already have to help you in the search for more information. If you already have a date, or an approximate date, let that guide you.

5. And finally, be patient. Patience has its rewards in checking newspaper files. If you're not prepared to spend a little time at it, don't begin.

GENEALOGY AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PROJECT

Mrs. Polk Morris, Jr.
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

It was my privilege to work as a student helper in the Louisiana Room of the Library at LSU for two years under the late Mrs. Ruth Bates Campbell. When I left to be married, she gave me a great deal of earnest advice. I can still see her alert, bird like expression, as she told me to be sure to continue to read magazines and books, and to stay active physically and mentally. She said, "Don't allow yourself to dry up in a small town!"

Twenty busy years and three children later I have behind me activities in PTA, the local Kentwood Music Club and other social and civic groups. I teach an adult women's Sunday School class, have developed a small library in my local Baptist Church, have served two years as head of the parish Women's Missionary Society, and today am one of the state officers of the Order of the Eastern Star. I don't believe Mrs. Campbell would be disappointed in me, but I know she would be MOST pleased with the lasting love and appreciation which she developed in me for books, records and source materials. It has become a most satisfying and worthwhile hobby for me.

Each of you here who live in small towns have with me an opportunity which is almost impossible for residents of larger towns to enjoy. We can each become the focal point for the collection of local materials, and a contact which will help others to get in touch with the things in our area which especially interest them.

In Kentwood, the high school burned down shortly after I moved there, and I found that the excellent branch of the State Library had no facilities for the collection or preservation of the historical and source type materials. My interest in local history has gradually become known in my community, and I have acquired more than 30 notebooks of material and many items of interest. Newspapers, photostats, photographs, letters, correspondence, clippings, Bible records, Indian arrowheads, bottles and bricks with the makers name moulded on them, square nails, etc. A recent gift was a cupping glass, together with the story of how it was used in the early days of medical treatment in our area. One of the notebooks has cemetery records as I have been able to visit and copy them.

Much of the material in the 30 notebooks has been collected through interviews with older residents. The notes give the date of the interview, their answers to questions about their grandparents as well as themselves, where they came from, when they came to our area and why they came. During the visits I usually ask for the names, locations and connections of any early remembered relatives. I ask to see and copy any Bible records or any other old records they have. I record any dates they know which are not on paper. (For example, Mr. Bob Felder, whose home had burned, recalled birth, marriage and death dates for two generations back. Not proof? No, but certainly good clues for further research.)

I find the older folks are pleased to have a genuine interest taken in them and what they know. I have made many friends this way, and in the instances when I have given copies of the interview material to the family, they have treasured the record. It is sad that there are no Family Bibles to preserve the records of a family today. The vanishing old ones may be in the possession of a family on one name, while the record in them belongs alike to increasing numbers of persons by several different family names. (One Bible record I found belongs to a Berwick family and we have no residents by that name.) My husband and I were recently guests in the President's home at Mississippi State University in Starkville after I had put Mr. Ben Hilbun in possession of a copy of his family's Bible record. He had spent years and much effort in trying to locate it. The present owners were not of the same name, but were descendants of the youngest child of the second set of children, while Mr. Ben descended from an older child of the first set. Since he was grown, he remained with his own family in Mississippi when the father and younger set of children moved on to Louisiana prior to the War Between the States.

The spice of variety is brought to me by unexpected, unending and extensive correspondence which I enjoy with folks whom I've never met. It is a real satisfaction to have been of definite help in several instances. My father was a special agent, or law enforcement officer, and a sister who was in the FBI is married to a man in the Bureau. I've always enjoyed putting together puzzles and jigsaws and reading mysteries. The pleasure of genealogy far surpasses any of them. For example, it is a joy to record Mr. Swearingen's story of the gold he found hidden in the tree he cut down north of town. Someday someone will be interested in the lonely brick tomb he took me to in the woods above his place. "Some say it was a Carsendyke!" Local and family history puzzles will never be completely worked out by any individual or group, but will continue to have a satisfying fascination for the amateur and the professional.

I do have some definite results of organized search, for I have compiled for my own family some records and stories which we have mimeographed on different colored paper, one for each of our own family names. I visited the Library of Congress and Department of Archives in Washington and I am proud of the fact that I established a new DAR line in 1952 on John Dickey of Amite County, Mississippi. I feel that the bare facts of the outline of a family tree are as the bare outline of a tree in winter, and I have enjoyed recording the stories, traditions and descriptions of personal appearances to make names become people in the material prepared for my own family. Thus we add the leaves of springtime to the bare outline of the tree.

I mention this to show that all I have collected is not just a mass of undigested matter. I am like a sponge and soak up everything that I can, yet I try not to be greedy, and try to be generous as well.

Many opportunities present themselves for using my local history materials. I have helped a graduate student do a history of the dairy industry in our area. In 1955 I assisted Lucy Wall Varnado of Osyka, Mississippi to do a term paper for a class in Library School. It was titled, "The Early Families of Southwest Mississippi and the Florida

Parishes of Louisiana--A Bibliography of Genealogy."

I help high school students prepare senior themes on themselves and their background. In stimulating their historical interests there is real satisfaction. Several of them have developed a lasting interest in genealogy.

The Future Homemakers Club did a series of programs on their background and climaxed it with a tour of our area, from log houses to antebellum homes, and other points of interest.

Camp Moore Confederate Cemetery is nearby and I take every opportunity to tell of the pride we can feel in having the site of Roncal, the Civil War time home of Charles Gayarre, near Kentwood. The house as it was described in detail in Grace King's Memoirs of a Southern Woman of Letters, and this is included in Stark Young's Treasury of Southern Literature. I have requested that the society ask to have the site marked.

There is little about our area in print, but in addition to my collection of notebooks, pictures, etc., I have a bookcase to hold all the published or printed materials that deal with our area that I have been able to obtain. My private collection includes, for example, the eleven volumes of publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, for there is much overlapping in the records of the families of our area and those of Mississippi. I especially enjoy two publications of the LSU Press, Wiley's Plain People of the Confederacy and Owsley's Plain Folk of the Old South, for to me, these are the people of our area.

People in our area are included in many products of individual research. You possibly may be interested in some of them. You know of Mrs. McBee's Natchez Records, of Dr. Casey's and Miss Frances Otken's three volume History of Amite County, Mississippi, the Burris book and the Genealogy of Wilkinson and Kindred Families. There is a Bass book and compilations of both the Balo Chitto Simmons and the Silver Creek Simmons. Mrs. Mary Louise Hendrix who compiled Mississippi Supreme Court Records, 1799-1895 has also done a delightful family history, Flowers Kith and Kin. Mrs. Alice Tracy Welch deserves much credit for Family Records of Mississippi Revolutionary Soldiers. She is certainly an example of the individual who is usually behind any group effort.

Other references are:

- 300 Years of Easley Genealogy by James Daniel Easley, 1952, 278 p.p., Fort Worth, Texas
- Abstract History of the Fortinberry Family, G. K. Fortinberry, 1942
- Here Come the Amackers, Chicago, Illinois
- Autobiography of George Howard Alford and the Alford Family, 1954, Progress, Mississippi
- Our Cains, Gibsons, Allisons and Campbells, Cyril E. Cain, State College, Mississippi, 1953
- My Butler Grandparents, Their Home and Family, a memoir by Margaret Butler Gordon, 1953

Genealogy of the Bankston (Benkestok) Family

The Family of Dr. William Giles, 1950 (Though written in Simpson County, Mississippi, I know there is a connection to Jeanerette, La.)
The Travis (Travers) Family and Its Allies, 1954, Savannah, Georgia
John Porter Tull and His Descendants, Hartford, Conn., 1942
(has Price Gill data also)

Also, I should like to mention Claitor's reprint of Skipwith's East Feliciana and a reprint from the "St. Francisville Democrat" of the story of the Kenper Brothers and the 1936 book by the editor, Elrie Robinson, Early Feliciana Politics.

In thinking of genealogy from a group, I must say that I enjoy the record forms of the Mormon Church which assist me in collecting local material. Other church records can be of much help. Do you know of the Abstract Hisotry of the Mississippi Baptist Association for 100 Years (1806-1906) by T. C. Shilling? Incidentally, the Baptist Denomination is currently engaged in a plan called "Operation Baptist Biography" which will add to the recorded materials of our own period.

The Mississippi Genealogical Society has done a series of mimeographed volumes of Bible and Cemetery records which are beautifully indexed. Their survey of Mississippi Courthouses, 1957, can be most helpful.

Are you familiar with the Index to the Louisiana Historical Quarterly which the Plantation Bookshop has printed? Have you seen Owen's Bibliography of Mississippi, published in 1900? In 1939 the Book Farm of Hattiesburg, Mississippi published an index to J. F. H. Claiborne's Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, which was published in 1880. (For example, I found there a reference to Chappness Terry, an early planter. His name appears on a photostat from the State Land Office and is still the name of a creek, yet the man has disappeared from local knowledge.)

Much genealogical material may be found in local publications such as the 1922 History of Pike County and McComb, Mississippi and the recent 1956 Centennial celebration of the founding of Magnolia, Mississippi when families of early settlers are reviewed and added to the information found in Conerly's History of Pike County.

There are several other individuals in our area who could provide help. Nick Murray has a column in the "Sunday Sun." Mr. Leo Lanier of Amite contemplates a series in his paper soon of the early history of our area. Mr. Clyde Young of Amite has a fabulous collection acquired from the courthouse in Greensburg. (As an example of what he has, he purchased the 1850 St. Helena census on micro film, projected it on the wall and patiently typed it. I have copied it onto cards and have it alphabetized in my collection.)

Mr. John William Hadsy of Roxie, Mississippi has recently done a thesis for Mississippi State University at Starkville on the "History of Franklin County, Mississippi to 1865." There is an interesting thesis

here at LSU which compares the Northern European people of Kentwood with the people of Independence and their Southern European background.

Every person knows some little bit of additional information. Our problem is to fit the pieces together. It is difficult to know what has already been done and avoid duplication of effort. May I call your attention to a project of the National DAR which was authorized in October, 1958 as outlined in the September issue and further discussed on the genealogical pages of the December, 1958 issue.

I hope the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society will never limit itself to published materials, but will, individually and as a group, continue to encourage amateurs such as I, in the hope that many clues for further constructive research will be found in communities all over our State.

CONDUCTING THE GENEALOGICAL INTERVIEW,
BOTH VERBAL AND WRITTEN

Mrs. St. John P. Chilton
Louisiana Genealogical
and Historical Society

One of the first steps in seeking genealogical information is to search among one's relatives. A personal visit is usually preferable to writing a letter, inasmuch as letterwriting is often an unpleasant chore to people who talk more easily than they write. This is particularly true of older people.

Before going out to visit and question relatives, it is a good plan to write down your ancestry as far as you can. The best way to do this is to make a simple chart which begins with your own name and continues with the full names of your parents, their places and dates of birth, and, if they are not living, their places and dates of death. The chart should include the same items of information on grandparents as far back as they can be traced. In addition, you should make a list of questions which you are attempting to have answered. A notebook and a supply of sharp pencils should be taken on each visit, in order that notes can be made on the information obtained. Trusting memory or using scraps of paper for note-taking is poor practice and will usually result in the loss of valuable information.

Controlling the interview presents a problem at times. Many people "ramble" in their reminiscences to such an extent that a great deal of tact is required in bringing them back around to the points you need to discuss. However, what they say should be jotted down if it has any possible connection with your problem. Even conjectures such as "I don't exactly remember, but I think your great-uncle Tobe married a Jones girl from Tennessee." These things, even though they may be only possibilities, may be of great value and can be checked against what others will you later.

When you are interviewing for genealogical information, you must not be too casual in your conversation. Try to get all the exact information you can. If your relative tells you a grandparents initials, try to get him to remember the full name; if he gives you a nickname, try to get him to recall the given name. It is important to learn whether Susie's name was really Susie, Susan, or Susanne.

Being a good listener is one of the qualities a genealogist must cultivate. One successful genealogist⁽¹⁾ has given interview-

(1) George B. Everton and Gunnar Rasmuson, "Handy Book for Genealogists" (Logan, Utah: Herald Journal Printing Company, 1953), p. 213.

ing instructions this way:

"You must train yourself to ask short, direct questions, and then listen intently to the perhaps, long drawn-out story of the interviewed relative. Be careful that you never offend or injure the feelings of the person questioned. Don't bring into the conversation matters that may be repulsive to him. Do everything possible to gain his friendship and good will. Remember that you are trying to get from him family information unknown to you. Until you get that, let your conversation with him be strictly genealogical.

"As you listen, carefully select from his story the points of value and interest you need for your records. Write them in your notebook while he is talking. If names and dates are given, be sure to write them correctly, being careful to get the right spelling. Don't take anything for granted. Ask questions and record the answers.

"If he has any old family Bibles, ask permission to see them. Copy from them whatever valuable family information they may contain. Don't be satisfied with information received from one relative or a single source. Contact other family members and compare the information they give you with that already gathered. Never discard any information until you are certain it is wrong." (1)

It is not usual for a family to live so close together that all information gathering can be done by personal visits. When a family is widely scattered, letters must be written both to distant relatives and others who may have needed data.

With the written interview, as with the verbal, in advance, you must analyze what you need to know and organize your questions. Some researchers use a questionnaire form for these purposes. Mr. Charles East, the Chairman of this panel, has wonderful success in using a form he devised. He sent this form to more than fifty Easts in Louisiana and adjoining states. Of the people that answered, all were of the same East family, with the exception of one person from Michigan. A copy of the questionnaire Mr. East devised is shown on the following page.

- (1) George B. Everton and Gunnar Rasmuson, "Handy Book for Genealogists" (Logan, Utah: Herald Journal Printing Company, 1953), p. 213.

EAST FAMILY

My name is _____.

My father's name is _____, and my mother's
maiden name was _____.

My father's father was _____, and my father's
mother was _____.

My wife's maiden name was _____.

The following are our children, and the names of their husbands
or wives:

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.
6. _____.

My brothers and sisters were: _____

_____.

My father's brothers and sisters (my aunts and uncles) were:

Any other pertinent notes on the family may be written in here:

Please mail to:

Charles E. East
1455 Knollwood Dr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

In letter writing, one of the best sources of information is the Postmaster in a small town. For example, if you think your ancestor might have lived in a particular locality, write the Postmaster there for the names of people having your ancestor's family name. Mr. East wrote one Postmaster in Mississippi, and to his surprise, the Postmaster had his letter read in Church. His responses were more than enough to give him the information he needed. It developed that the Mississippi Postmaster was his cousin too!

Other good sources to tap in writing for genealogical information are the editors of weekly newspapers. Often a weekly newspaper will print your letter of inquiry.

There are two last pointers that it is important to bear in mind when seeking genealogical information by mail. First, make your letter easy to answer by asking questions clearly and concisely. Second, enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope with every request for information.

